

## **Hasmukhbhai Dave, General Secretary, BMS, (Delhi)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>HASMUKHBHAI DAVE, General Secretary BMS, Delhi.</b>
<b>Date of Interview</b>	October 25th, 2002.
<b>Time</b>	First session-4.30 pm to 6.45 pm.
<b>Place</b>	BMS Head Office; Ram Naresh Bhawan; Chuna Mandi, Tilak Galli, Pharganj.
<b>Context</b>	The interview was in the evening at Hasmukhbhai Dave's office. He is a committed Sangh worker and joined BMS on the direction of the Sangh. He is a bramachari. There is no doubt by his personality that he is a committed person and a simple man. He suffered personal loss by the killing of his father, his brother wife and her child by some worker due to some ongoing industrial dispute he was trying to resolve. Despite this grievous personal loss which he mentions in the interview one finds that he is very calm and cheerful, though little sadness also but he says it is part of the job as a Sangh member working for the workers.
<b>Interviewers</b>	Anil Rajimwale & Bobby Poulouse.

### **Biographical Sketches**

Hasmukhbhai Gaurishanker Dave was born on 19th July 1939 in Ramparda in Sundernagar district of Gujarat. His father was a railway station master. He studied B.A., B.Com, LLB and became an advocate later. From childhood his family was with RSS. He joined RSS in 1957. It was at the instance of RSS that he started working in BMS. He is considered one of the founders of BMS in Gujarat. His aim was to spread the ideology of RSS among the workers. As regards his trade unionism he organized the unions in many sectors like Rayons, chemicals, university, textiles, unorganized, railways, P & T, Port & Docks, and several other industries. He suffered due to his trade unionism as his father and sister-in-law and her child were murdered by a worker who attacked Hasmukhbhai's house to kill his. Hasmukhbhai got saved as he was not there. He has held the president post of more than 120 BMS affiliated unions in Gujarat. He was the Gujarat state general secretary of BMS. Later he became national general secretary of BMS and now is its president. He has been in all important government committees.

## Transcript Summary

The following are the major points made by him: -

He said- My name is Hasmukhbhai Gaurishankar Dave. I was born on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1939 in place called Ramparda in Sundernagar district of Gujarat. My father was a railway station master of Ramparda. Due to the nature of his job, he was constantly transferred from one place to another, and as a result our family was periodically on the move.

He goes on- my educational qualification is BA, B.Com, LLB. After high school and later became an advocate. Before this I had also taken up a job as an LDC in the Central Warehousing Corporation. I was twice selected for the railway traffic but I did not accept the offer.

He added- I wanted to become a criminal lawyer but our family was connected with the RSS. I also joined the RSS early, i.e. 1957 onwards. It was the RSS leaders who assigned the task in BMS and asked me to organize it and work in it in the Gujarat State. The work of organizing BMS in the state began in 1965. I was given charge of Rajkot and seven other districts mainly in Saurashtra.

He said- I took the help of the Jan Sangh leaders in organizing BMS and discuss things with them as to how to organize it. I became the Secretary of the Rajkot dist. BMS, later became State Secretary and then All-India General Secretary.

On being asked the question as to what is the purpose of BMS? Hasmukhbhai said- It is to spread the message of the RSS among the workers. I work hard to tell the workers to work according to the instructions of the RSS. To fight for bread and butter for money is not the main thing. We do not believe in the 'haves and have-nots'. We believe in inculcating the workers with the ideas of nationalism i.e. 'work for the nation', and 'proper remuneration for work', that is our slogan.

I want to teach discipline to the workers i.e. the Sangh discipline. We do not encourage wrong trends among the workers. They should work properly and just demand money.

He further added with examples of his trade union activity from his life that- the management of Acumex Ltd in Rajkot was not allowing the communist trade union to be formed. Similarly some garment workers also approached me. They shifted from the Communists to the BMS. We asked the workers to work for less

salary for one year and to revive production. Later on this was adjusted. Then in the case of Indian Rayons and Industries Ltd. In Verawal, Somnath we worked hard to improve the quality of the yarn several times. We worked like this for 6 years. Ultimately the management was happy and granted a rise in the bonus. In another case Hasmukhbhai said - i.e. in Saurashtra Chemicals in Porbandar there was a 45-day lockout in 1980. We got together all the other trade unions and solved the problem. He added - once I got a worker to give up his hunger strike; he had started it right in the office of the Industrial Tribunal. After sometime that worker organized an attack on my family and killed some of my family members. I escaped only because I was away. He ultimately got the death sentence from the Supreme Court. Despite this incident I did not give up trade union work though many people thought so and even advised me so.

Hasmukhbhai adds - I have served in various capacities in the BMS: I am one of the founders of Gujarat BMS, I have been president of all the 120 trade unions affiliated to the BMS in Gujarat in the last 25 years I was BMS state General Secretary for 12 years working president of the state unit for 3 years, All-India Finance Secretary of the BMS for 3 year, then All-India Gen. Secretary of BMS from 1994 to Feb. 2000, now I am the President of All-India BMS. I have been member of ILC, NLC, National Renewal Fund, Chairman of the Central Board of Workers' Education and other committees.

My special contribution is that I have organized the trade union movement in Rayons, Cements, textiles, university, unorganized sector, railways, P&T, Port & Docks, and several other industries.