

USI

The strike of the two and half lac textile workers in the city of Bombay, embracing all the sixty mills in the city began on 28th February 1966. The call for the strike was given by the Mumbai Ginni Kamgar Union, which is affiliated to the ATUC.

The main issues of the strike were the payment of Bonus for the year 1964 and the withdrawal of the notice of ~~cut~~ 30 per cent cut in the dearness allowance, ~~for~~ for which the millowners had gone to the industrial tribunal. There were other issues also such as those of ^{retirement} bath workers, women workers etc.

The Rashtriy Mill Mazdoor Sangh (RMMS) ^{of the ATUC} which is recognised by the millowners under the BIR Act had entered into an understanding with the millowners to delay the payment of Bonus and allow the threat of cut in D.A. to stand, by

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by agreeing to ~~allow a dispute~~
~~to be created under the law~~
and take it to conciliation
court. If they had not done
this the employers were
bound to pay bonus before
28th February: ~~the~~

The workers repudiated
the Bonus and unanimously
responded to the call of the
M.G.U. A vast rally, addressed
by Com S. A. Dange President of
the M.G.U. and Com S. S. Patkar,
General Secretary resolved to
continue the strike indefinitely.

~~The~~
A central strike committee
comprising 4 of 260 workers
drawn from all the mills and the
Executive of the M.G.U. led the
strike. Workers and representatives
of all political tendencies unitedly
joined in the strike.

The strike was opposed by the
 G. V. Narayan Murthy, ~~the new member of~~
~~the Hindu Mahasabha~~ Panchayat
 and its general secretary
 George Fernandes and President
 S. M. Joshi. But this opposition
 had no effect on the workers
 decision.

Three times the leaders
 of the MCGU and ^{Ministers of the} ~~the~~ Maharashtra
 Government met. On 3rd March
~~the~~ the Chief Minister ~~at~~
 asked the leaders of the MCGU to
 call off the strike ~~and~~ ~~and~~
~~by~~ ~~submitting~~ and bring an
 end to the need for the
 strike leaders asked for written
 guarantees, which he had
 refused to give.

On 6th March, ~~there was~~
 another attempt was ~~made~~
 with the intervention of Mr.
 Yashwantrao Chavan, the
 Defence Minister. That also
 failed.

The leaders of the ~~RMMS~~ RMMS-INTUC led by Abid Ali, ex-^{Secretary} ~~Secretary~~ Minister of the Govt of India and now President of the RMMS denounced Mr Chavan's intervention, warned him that he was "asking for trouble" and demanded that the Maharashtra Govt smash the strike by ~~the~~ mercifully adopting the "Maharaj line".

Then on 8th March, the Congress leadership of Bombay and the RMMS, advised by Ministers Shantihal Shah and P. B. Sawant and others, launched ~~an~~ ~~attack~~ a campaign to break the strike with ten thousand black-legging volunteers at all the mill-gates, with very little police protection. The attempt failed miserably.

Sixty-one unions in the city ~~are~~ of different trades

men ~~to~~ and decided to launch
Dr. B. B. B. on 14 March
and asked the H. M. M. P.
P. M. P. to join, which they
refused to do. They ~~also~~ announced
unilaterally their separate date
of 14 March.

On 9th March, talks
between the strike leaders
but in the absence of any
written guarantees the talks
failed.

On 10th March,
however, the Govt. of Maharashtra
changed its stand. The mill-
owners also gave an indication
that they ~~are~~ were not opposed
to giving bonus. The talks
were resumed on the basis
of a draft declaration to be
made by the Government of
Maharashtra and addressed to
the Members of the B. M. C.
M. M. C.

PM

By the Government in the
matter of "Expedition"
settlement of the 1964 Bonus
and withdrawal of the notice
of D.A. and other matters,
the Strike Committee agreed to
call off the strike.

Work was resumed
at 12 in morning, without
any hitch.

The workers have come
back in a mood of victory
and unity. They are determined
~~to fight again if the fair~~
to fight again if the fair
to implement the agreement.
~~Not only has the~~
workers unity and strength
advanced during the struggle,
they have even made the
give up its former position of wholly
lining up with the big employers
and supporting the strike-breaking
union.

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~~The~~ The militant members of the
Kangas Union, ^{has proved that in} alone commands
the loyalty of the two ~~as~~ and
half trade workers ^{in Punjab City}
~~and~~ ~~defacto~~ The Govt also
had to recognize this fact.

And when the wages of last
month were distributed
on 10th March, while the strike
was ~~at~~ still on, the MGLK
enrolled ~~one~~ ~~that~~ ~~has~~ ~~2~~ members,
on its rolls. All victory to the
Red Flag of the ATUC and the MGLK
and its leadership.

~~Editor~~
Editor 16.3.66

During the strike, the WFTU and
its affiliates organisations and the ~~that~~
TUI of T+H's sent messages of solidarity.
Many unions in India also sent
resolutions of solidarity and Congratula-
-tions.

4/5/66
X.