

The Pathetic Conditions of the Former Maruti-Suzuki Workers for Survival

Japan's Indian subsidiary the Maruti-Suzuki of India has been thriving by earning more and more profits and remitting huge amounts of royalty to its parent company and is boasting as if it is revising the salaries of its workers (only the permanent workers) to their satisfaction and conducting negotiated settlement with workers.

But when we look in to the lives of its former workers who were dismissed from their jobs after the episode of industrial strife on July 18, 2012, at Manesar plant, who have presently been turning earth and heaven to eke out a dignified lively hood and survival and their pathetic conditions, it becomes clear that how the big capital in connivance with the Indian state inhumanly plays with the workers with disastrous consequences.

After the above mentioned episode of industrial strife in July,2012, 150 workers were picked up by the police from their parent's homes, from shared rented rooms in workers tenements and from streets and were pushed in to Bhondsi Jail. These were charged under 18 sections of the Indian Penal Code including murder. Another 60 workers were named as absconders and nearly 2,500 were dismissed amid an avalanche of negative media publicity for workers.

From 2012(July) onwards they remained in jail being their bail applications rejected. While turning down a plea for bail in May 2013, a Punjab and Haryana court observed "The incident is most unfortunate occurrence which has lowered the representation of India in the estimation of the world. Foreign investors are not likely to invest money in India out of fear of labour unrests". Thus even our so-called "impartial judicial system" has inclined to respect and support the FDI and its wiles in exploiting the workers of India –the supposed citizens of India.

Such has been the 'democratic' system of India that treats its workers with justified unfairness in favour of foreign direct investment.

Out of the 150 in jail, 114 have managed to secure bail after two-and-a half years in prison. And now they are engaged in a desperate un noticed search for employment without any possible success. All these workers are ITI certificate holders with ample skill in their respective trades with good experience. In fact these workers were the best skilled workers who were instrumental in earning super profits to Maruti-Suzuki.

Now with the taint of being jailed, they are unable to eke out a respectable and dignified means of lively-hood despite their skills and experience. No one is willing to give them a job. Even if someone are able to obtain a job they are failing in police verifications.

In fact they are being hounded by the taint inflicted on them by the Maruti-Suzuki management is sending them to jail. Though according to the version of prosecution they are accused for damaging the property of the company, they stand charged for murder. Such have been the evil circumstances that have surrounded these unfortunate workers.

Now these workers are forced to take-up unskilled, hard manual jobs in road building, weight-lifting (carrying loads), or packing clothes in garment factories or the unskilled agricultural labourers. At the same time they have to appear before the court, in the hearings conducted regularly.

Such has been the pathetic conditions of the former workers of Maruti-Suzuki in eking out a lively-hood.

The bitter experiences of these workers highlight and warn the evil consequences of the FDI in India, demanding the working-class to resolutely fight against this evil with relentless resolve.
