

Lively-hood of Beedi workers in A.P &Telangana states rushed in to doldrums

Very often whatever might be the industrial policy adopted by the governments, they often play havoc with the lives of the workers. Presently, with the recent central governments order vide its G.O.No.727, deciding that manufacturers should enlarge the size of skull and cross boras sign on the lables of beedi bundles from the present 45 cent to 85 percent, besides that these signs shall be changed for every three months and that the manufacturing dates of beedies shall be printed on bundles of beedies and shall not sell beedies in loose form had pushed the lively-hood of beedi rolling workers in to dol-drums. In both A.P. and Telangana states there are around 20 lakhs of workers in the sector.

In Telangana majority of beedi workers are women, who work day and night rolling beedies and are eking out a living with the small amount they earned by rolling beedies.

Managements allege that the central governments' order was a 'conspiracy to weaken' the beedi industry in a bid to favour big cigar and cigarette industries.

Traditional T.U.leadership of trade unions in the beedi industry allege that the government with a top priority to in the interests of large corporate companies (cigarette), has issued such an order, to cause a great set back to the beedi industry, and that the beedi companies would close the industries permanently, using this opportunity.

The beedi factory managements' had decided to close the companies for 10 days from Feb 15 Feb 24, claiming that this closure is aimed at protesting the central governments order vide its recent G.O.M.S.No.727.

The trade unions demanded the immediate scrapping of the G.O.M.S.No.727.

Thus the beedi workers are caught in the tussle between beedi factory managements and the central government; losing their paltry means of their lively-hood.
