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C H A P T E R - III

MILL WORKERS MOVEMENT IN SOLAPUR AFTER INDEPENDENCE

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### CHAPTER - III

#### MILL WORKER'S MOVEMENT IN SOLAPUR AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

##### RISE OF DIFFERENT TRADE UNIONS :

Mill industry developed in India in the second half of the 19th Century. There were large number of workers in the mills. But as an organized movement, trade unions began to take shape in India in the years immediately following the end of the world war first. Trade unions are essentially the products of large scale industry. They developed as a new institutions to voive the workers. (1)

The labour movement in India has passed through different stages of its development. The pattern of growth and character of the movement in different periods was shaped by the existing social, economic and political characteristics of each period. (2)

The first mill in India was established in 1854 in Bombay and the first mill was established in Solapur in 1874. The credit for organising the first trade union in our state goes to famous Satya Shodhak leader N. M. Lokhande who organized the Bombay mill hands in some sort of Association

of which he was president. The Bombay Mill Hands Association was the first labour association in India. After 1890, a large number of labour associations were established in India. (3)

The setting up of international labour organization in 1919 also tremendously helped the organization of trade unions in this country tremendously. (4) The All India Trade Union congress was established in 1920. The era of left wing trade unionism started in 1924 and lasted upto the year 1935. Since 1924, signs of rise of militant tendencies and revolutionary trade unionism in the labour movement of country became appearant. In 1927, at the annual session of the Trade Union Congress held at Kanpur, it became appearant that ~~the~~ labour in the country was going in two directions; one following <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~the~~ communist line and the other <sup>the</sup> moderate line. In 1928 at the Jharia session, the conflict between the two groups became intense and at the Nagpur session in 1929, a split took place in the All India Trade Union Congress. The moderate section under the leadership of Messrs. N. M. Joshi, V. V. Giri, Mr. Rao, R. R. Bakhale resigned from the congress and set up a separate organization under name of the National Trade Unions Federation for Co-ordinating the activities of non-communist trade unions. The years 1928 and 1929 were also considered as the years of large scale strikes in Bombay, Kanpur, Solapur and Jamshedpur. (5) In the 1931 session held at Calcutta another split took place

in the congress and the extreme left wing under the leadership of Messrs S. V. Deshpande and B. T. Randive broke away and formed the All India Red Trade Union Congress. (6)

In 1935, the Red Trade Union Congress merged itself with the A.I.T.U.C. In 1938, an agreement was arrived at whereby the N.T.U.F. affiliated itself to the A.I.T.U.C. But this unity was short lived. In the post independence period, with the formation of a new political party the socialist party, another labour organisation Hind Mazdoor Sabha was established in 1948. After that many trade unions were started in this country. (7)

#### TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN SOLAPUR :

In Solapur, the Girani Kamgar Sangh was established in 1928, under the leadership of Bakhale and Joshi. But within a short period the workers rejected their leadership. Then in 1934, the Lal Bawata Girani Kamgar Union was established. Later in the post independence period, The Rashtriya Girani Kamgar Sangh was established in Solapur under the leadership of the Congress party in 1948. After the establishment of R.G.K.U., in 1957, all leftist opposition parties came together and formed a new union name the Girani Kamgar Union, Solapur. (8)

Now, these two trade unions, R.G.K.U. and G.K.U., are mainly involved in the mill workers movement in Solapur. A brief history of these two trade unions is as below :

The Indian National Trade Union Congress:

( Rashtriya Girani Kamgar Sangh )

This organization was formed in 1947, with active support and encouragement from the Congress leaders and blessings of Mahatma Gandhi to give a constructive lead to the working class and to bring about a peaceful and non-violent resolution of industrial disputes. The aim of INTUC is, therefore, to establish an order of society which is free from hindrances in the way of all round development of its individual members, which fosters in progressively eliminating social, political and economic exploitation and inequality, the profit motive in the economic activities and organization of society and the anti-social, concentration of power in any form. To achieve this and other objects, the organization urges the placing of industry under national ownership and control in a suitable form and the securing of increasing association of workers in the administration of industry and their full participation. It believes in gradually bringing about a change through democratic and peaceful means and it does not want to adopt radical methods for achieving its objectives.

It is the most representative organization of Indian workers. It has represented workers both inside and outside India. It is being contended that the active and close co-operation from the congress govt. and leadership enabled



this organization to gain this status and strength.

However, the organization had developed not simply because of state support or patronage ( as the rival trade union organization in the country have often been complaining ) but mainly because of it's inherent strength. The INTUC has favoured the organization of workers on <sup>an</sup> industrial basis from the very beginning and it has been encouraging the industrial unions. Individual unions have to affiliate themselves to these national federations. The formation of federations at the state level has also been encouraged. The Indian workers is the official organ of the organization. Besides this central organ, several affiliated unions ~~are~~ also publishing their separate papers, magazines, etc. The organization also maintains a ' Research and Information section mainly devoted to preparing memoranda on various labour matter & for submission to different govts. etc. In the international sphere, the INTUC has been closely associated with I.L.O. Its representatives have attended meetings of different bodies of I.L.O. The organization is the founder member of International confederation of world Trade Unions (ICFTU) which has helped it in a number of ways. ' (9)

In Solapur this union was formed in 1947. This union named as Rastriya Girani Kamgar Sangh. This is the representative union. Mr. Mhetre, Mr. Chandele, Mr. Nadargi,

Mr. Ganapatrao Bhakare, Mr. Athawale, Mr. Aabasaheb Killedar, Mr. Banshidhur Rane have worked hard for the formation of this union. Now this union is working under the leadership of Mr. Aabasaheb Killedar. (10)

The G. K. U. ( GIRANI KAMGAR UNION ) :

In 1920, there was a great strike organized by Solapur mill workers. This strike continued for three months. At that time the police resorted to fire killing seven workers. This famous strike is called ' the strike of Bhimrao ' and it attracted world wide attention convinced the mill workers that there was a need of establishment of powerful organization for the struggle against the mill owners. To pursue this object ' The Lal Bawata Girani Kamgar Union ' was formed under the leadership Com. Raghunath Karhadkar, Com. Meenaxi Sane, Com. G. D. Sane, Com. Sidramppa Valmari and Com. Hiralkar. (11)

At the time of ' Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement ' all opposition parties came together, in 1957. During this period the leaders of opposition parties decided to form only one trade union. Hence they formed new trade union named ' Girani Kamgar Union '. The union in Solapur has been supported by leftist parties. At present this union is working under the leadership of Mr. Bhimrao Rane, Com. <sup>Adam</sup> Master, Mr. Vitthalrao Sangar and other leaders. (12) Now there are 1000 members in Girani Kamgar Union and in Rashtriya Girani Kamgar Sangh more than 2500 workers registered their names. (13)

The subject of the membership of the workers is very interesting. The workers registered their names in the both unions. (14) Many workers <sup>are</sup> not involved in the trade unions. (15)

#### DIFFERENT STRIKES AND STRUGGLES :

In a short period after the establishment of cotton textile industries/ workers tried to go on strike for many demands and also to oppose their, exploitation by mill owners. The problems of the mill workers remain the same after independence also.. Today also the workers are struggling for the same demands like increase in wages, and dearness allowance and medical facilities etc. To get the above demands sanctioned they use ~~the~~ means like <sup>the</sup> strike, Hartal, Morcha, and fasting etc.

<sup>have been</sup> There ~~are~~ hundred of strikes launched by the workers after independence. Every year invariably there is a strike to demand <sup>a</sup> larger bonus. Some times the strikes takes place due to the local problems. They are a result of the political influences. These strikes mainly took place under the leadership of the Girani Kamagar Union, Solapur and under the leadership of following leaders Com. Jagannath Bhoite, Com. Madur, Mr. Bhimrao Rone, Com. Beria, Com. Aadam Master, Mr. Vitthalrao Sangar, Com. Meisur, Com. Ganacharya, Com. Indepure etc. In the subsequent pages some important strikes are discussed in order to understand the effectiveness of trade unionism in Solapur.



On dated 27th August 1949, First time the ' Juni Girani ' ( Solapur spinning and weaving co. Ltd. Solapur ) was locked<sup>ent</sup>. At that time many trade unions were functioning in the mill. These trade unions launched struggle against the mill owners and the Government but they did not succeed in getting their grievances redressed <sup>as</sup> ~~as~~ slowly, this mill was completely locked<sup>in</sup> in 1957-58. After that also the trade unions tried to solve the problems of this mill workers. When this mill was closed a large number of workers were rendered job less. When this mill was locked many workers lost their job. (16)

At that time on 30/8/49, workers offered Satyagrah under the leadership of the PWP leader Mr. Tulashidas Jadhav and with the help of other political leaders a movement was launched. They were arrested under different charges and sentenced to short terms of imprisonment and fined Rs. 25 per person. The secretary of the G.K.U. Mr. Sangar was also arrested at this time. The date 2nd October 1949 was declared as a " Worker's day ". Many meetings were held by the trade unions. Mr. Jadhav, who led the struggle made it clear in the weekly 'Lok Seva ' ( 5-9-1940 ) that it was very shameful on the part of the govt. to allow the mill to be closed down as the workers were the backbone of the nation. But they were neglected both by millowners and the government and instead of redressing their grievances the govt. was

✓) carrying out vile propoganda against the workers. At the time of the world war the mill owners earned fat profits due to hard work of the workers and now these mill owners are throwing the workers to wind. What wrong ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> ~~the~~ workers have done ? Their demand for increase in wages was the result of growing prices in the market ! But despite these exhortions the Juni Girani was closed down and thousands of workers were rendered unemployed. (17)

After the closure of Old Mill in 1949 and the failure of the workers to get it started, one more mill ~~of~~ was locked out in 1957-58. Narsing Girji Mill was locked out in 1957 and all the workers united to launch strike against this closure. (18)

The workers started their struggle under the leadership of the G.K.U. and demanded that this mill should be taken over by the Government and be started under the U.R.S. Scheme. At that time, Mr. S. M. Joshi and Com. Datta Deshmukh and other leaders pleaded with the government that the mill should be runned by the Government. The Government took over the mill and started <sup>running</sup> it in March 1958. At that time the mill workers helped Government by giving 29 lakhs Rs. out of their provident fund, duty leaves etc. The Government added 23 lakhs Rs. The High Court auctioned the mill and in that auction, the Government purchased this mill for Rs. 52 lakhs. (19)

For the modernisation of machinery and some construction the Government spent Rs. 8 lakh in this mill and it earned good profit every year. Slowly the Government started returning the workers' money to them. Today this mill is in good condition. It is the opinion of the G.K.U. that it was to its credit that it had launched a struggle to open the mill when the R.G.K.U. was opposing the idea of Government takeover. But now its leaders are claiming that they were responsible for re-opening of the mill. ' One of the important strikes took place in 1959. In 1958 there was great depression in cotton textile industry. At that time R.G.K.U. made a agreement with the mill owners that dearness allowance of the workers may be cut. Because of this agreement there was dissatisfaction among the mill workers. The 'Juni Girani' was locked out and the N.G. Mill was saved due to the take over by the Government. The workers decided to launch struggle under the leadership of the G.K.U. Meanwhile sensing the mood of workers. R.G.K.U. made an appeal in the court against the cut in dearness allowance. But the court did not allow this appeal. Because of the decision of the court, the Jam Mill workers went on a strike on 23rd August 1959. The workers of L.V. Mills were also involved in this strike. The workers continued this strike to six days. On the request of the opposition leaders like Mr. Udhavarao Patil, the G.K.U. decided to call of the strike. '20)

Then slowly the cutting in dearness allowance was discontinued. The R.G.K.U. in its own way tried to discontinue the practice of cutting D.A. of workers but it did not approve of the method of strikes. Mrs. Indira Gandhi the President of Indian National Congress party, visited Solapur on 14th October 1959. At the time G.K.U. leaders held a big morcha. They submitted a memorandum to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in which they <sup>S</sup>described in great detail the sorry state of affairs of the mill workers in Solapur. (21)

After that event on 11th April 1960, Solapur mill workers organised a big morcha. They marched from Park Ground to Collector's Office and submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister ~~Mr.~~ Pandit Jawaharalal Nehru. (22)

All the mill workers of Solapur went on a strike under the leadership of G.K.U. on 28th June 1960. They <sup>got</sup> succeeded in getting enhanced bonus. They also submitted a memorandum to mill managers regarding the implementation of the recommendation of wage commission appointed by the Government. (23)

It may be mentioned that Juni Girani was slowly phased out and some women workers and watchman continued to work there up to 1962. The Juni Girani was phased out on 5th July 1962 and the women workers who were removed from Juni Girani started indefinite fast in front of the office of R.G.K.U. There were 12 women workers involved in fasting. The G.K.U. leaders made an appeal to the mill workers and to the citizens to support these women workers. To express proletarian solidarity, the mill workers of Solapur went on taken strike on 7th July 1962. Even citizens and traders also took part

in the Hartal. Then government declared that an inquiry commission under the leadership of B. Rajaram would inquire into the affairs of Juni Mill. On 12th August 1962, G.K.U. submitted to the committee ~~and~~ a memorandum. After that a big meeting was organised by the G.K.U. to highlight the problems of Juni Mill workers. 6,000 workers attended this meeting. In this meeting Mr. Bhimrao Rone, Mr. Ranshri ~~garee~~ Mr. Kulkarni, Mr. Jadhav made speeches. After meeting was over at 5 p.m. the workers burnt the effigy of Seth Gokuldas Morarka, the owner of 'Guni Girani'. (24)

According to the decision of Maharashtra Cotton Textile Mill Workers Association, Nagapur, the G.K.U. organised one day strike on 29th Dec., 1965. On that day all the mills were closed. In 1966 the mill workers went on one day strike in protest of cut in the D.A. of the workers. In this strike the police charged lathi on protesting workers. The President of R.G.K.U. Mr. Kanthikar went on a fast in protest against the cut. (25)

During this period many protest strikes took place in Solapur. Mr. Maru Seth, the administrator of N.G. Mills, Solapur visited Solapur on 31st May 1968. At that time all the workers in N. G. Mills went on strike to press their demands. The workers organised a morcha under the leadership of the G.K.U. Their main demands were as below: to oppose the

cut in dearness allowance, to remove the U.R.S. Scheme, to increase wages etc. This strike was held under the leadership of the G.K.U. The next day Mr. Maru Seth met the union leaders and discussed with them the problems of the workers. There was an agreement between the two. (26)

After that there was a protest strike in Vishnu Mill to <sup>o</sup> oppose the cut in Daffers in the Ring Deptt. R.G.K.U. made an agreement with mill owners regarding to the cut in daffers. To oppose the agreement workers went on strike for 4 days from 8th to 11th July 1968. Because of this strike the leaders of G.K.U. Com. Madur, Mr. Bhimrao Rone, Com. Jaggannath Bhoite, Com. Nabikhan Beria, Tikale were arrested by the Government on 14th July 1968. (27)

The G.K.U. organised a strike in protest of arrest of these leaders. 50% workers in Solapur were involved in this strike. They marched to the collector office. After this event an agreement was made between the workers and government and the strike was called off. The trade union leaders met Mr. Vasant Rao Naik, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and submitted him a memorandum on 10th Nov., 1968. On dated 30th March 1969 the N.G. Mill workers went on a strike for one day as the High Court rejected their appeal about the U.R.S. Scheme. The workers marched under the leadership of the G.K.U. and submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister, Mr. Vasant Rao Naik, at Park Ground. (28)

The clerical staff of N.G. Mill started a protest movement and they worked sporting black lebles on 1st June 1970 as their demand of increment was rejected the G.K.U. gave support to this strike. On 1st July 1970, the E.S.I. Doctor's went on strike and organised a morcha. They wanted hike in their wages. In this march the G.K.U. Leaders Bhai. Yadavrao Thite, Bhimrao Rone, Bhoite were involved. (29)

Under the leadership of G.K.U., the mill workers submitted a memoredum to the mill manager enlisting their demands on 17th July 1970. After then the union leaders held a meetings for two days in the city and appealed to the workers and citizens to go on a strike. All the members of G.K.U. stood for the strike. The president of G.K.U. Mr. Yadavrao Thite, Mr. Bhimrao Rone, Com. Aadam Master, Com. Beria had prevented the workers who were going on duty on the mill gates. All the workers of L.V. Mills were involved in the strike. The G.K.U. leaders held a meeting on the gate. At that meeting, some workers made noise and tried to break the meeting. The G.K.U. leaders were of the view that the members of the R.G.K.U. were responsible for breaking the strike. The workers in the Bleaching and finishing deptt. made a protest strike under the leadership the R.G.K.U. on dated 19th and 20th May 1971. (30)

The workers of N. G. Mill made a protest strike to press their demand for increase of 4.50 Rs. in their wage

on 3rd July 1971. The G.K.U. extended support to these workers. Later then the workers demand was sanctioned. (31)

On ~~dated~~ 6th September 1971 the Peasants and Workers Party organized a march at veirag (Tal. Barshi) and more than 10,000 peasants took part in this morcha. They demanded food and work for the peasants in drought affected areas. At that time police opened fire on these peasants. The G.K.U. CALLED AN URGENT MEETING AND MADE AN APPEAL TO THE WORKER TO STOP THEIR WORK and declared a hartal. They also appealed to the citizens in Solapur to participate in this struggle. All the citizens were involved in this Hartal. But the R.G.K.U. and the congress party opposed this Hartal. The G.K.U. launched a struggle from 11th Oct., 1971, to get 8.33 % Bonus for the mill workers of Solapur. (32)

The president of the Maharashtra Cotton Textile Association, Mr. Madan visited N.G. Mill on dated 21st June 1972. At that time G.K.U.'s leaders submitted a memo. to him. In that memo. following demands were made :

1. The Demand for payment of difference in cut of dearness allowance.
2. Demand for payment of 8.33 % Bonus to all the workers.
3. For the representation of the workers in the mill administration.
4. The representatives must be elected by the workers.
5. To remove the U.R.S. Scheme.
6. The working hours of the clerical staff should be reduced etc.



Mr. Madan said that he would look into the demands of workers. (33)

On 26th June a meeting of all trade unions and all political parties leaders was held. This meeting was held to discuss the demands of Solapur Railway Workers. The main demand of railway workers was the Solapur Section may be transferred from South Central Railway to Central Railway. In the meeting the leaders made a appeal to citizens to observe Hartal on 3rd July 1972. The G.K.U. declared full support to this Hartal. The Railway workers' strike of 1972, is a very important and historical strike. The mill workers were fully involved under the leadership of G.K.U. Mr. Bhimrao Rone led this strike. In this period many G.K.U. leaders and members were arrested. (34)

In the same month a great struggle began in the city. This strike is named 'Medical College Strike'. First the students of Medical college began the strike, subsequently all the citizens and the workers got involved in this strike. This strike was launched to discontinue donation system in the Solapur Medical College and the demand of students was that the college must be brought under the administration of government. During this strike most of the G.K.U. leaders were involved. Many meetings, morchas were arranged Mr. Bhimrao Rone, Com. Beria, Com. Aadam, Shri. Jadhav, Mr. Vitthalrao Sangar were arrested. At last the struggle was successful as all the demands of the students were granted

by the government. (35)

7 The workers of confedinter Deptt. in N.G. Mills went on a strike to demand increase in their wages. This strike was held on 5th September 1972. Workers went on strike under leadership of Com. Dhoite. Then, the M.L.A. and leader of R.G.K.U. Mr. Aabasaheb Killedar had discussions with the workers and he promised that he would look into demands of the workers and the strike was called off. (36)

On 30th April 1973, there was a strike organised by the opposition leaders and the Purogami Sanshatana to oppose the pro-capitalist policies of the government. The Government arrested Mr. Bhimrao Rone, Com. Beria, Com. Aadam Master, Com. Ganacharya and other workers on 29th April 1973. And sent them to Yerawada Jail. On the day of strike the G.K.U. members tried to go on strike and they prevented those workers who were going on duty on the mill gates. At the same time the members and leaders of R.G.K.U. tried to start the mill. They advised the workers not to get involved in the strike. During this struggle members of G.K.U. were arrested Mr. Sangar. Com. Madur, Com. Gadepalli, Mr. Ranga Veidya were also arrested. (37)

The Solapur Railway workers started their struggle again from 29th August 1973, for their main demand of transfer

of Solapur Section from South Central to Central Railway. All the mill workers supported this strike. They went on strike and at that time most of the G.K.U. leaders were arrested. (38)

Before the strike was launched on 10th August one of the main demands of workers i.e. termination of the U.R.S. scheme of N. G. Mill, was granted by the Government. Narendra Tidake, the Labour Minister of Maharashtra, declared the decision. (39)

On 25/5/75 Mr. Shankarao Bajirao Patil, the Labour Minister of Maharashtra, visited Solapur. The R.G.K.U. held a function to felicitate him. But at the same time G.K.U. held a big meeting of workers and marched to the R.G.K.U.'s office. They submitted a memorandum to the Labour Minister. In that memo. was included worker's demands, linked to the mills. (40)

The President of India declared Emergency in the country on 27th June 1975 and in the light of new situation the G.K.U. called off their strike. On dated 8th July 1977 G.K.U. held a big morcha. They marched to L.V. Mills, and they submitted a memo to Mr. Raut, the General Manager of L.V. Mills Ltd. In that memo some demands of workers were included. They were as follows :

- 1) N. G. Mill should be completely started as some of its sections are closed.

2) Return of the deposits.

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3) The temporary staff ~~should~~ be made permanent according to the provisions of security act. etc. (41)

The manager discussed these problems with workers and promised that he would try to grant demands of workers. On 27 August the G.K.U. held a big march to press demands of N.G. Mill workers. Their demands were as follows :

- 1) D.A. difference may be paid.
- 2) 15 % Bonus may be given to the workers.
- 3) Ration deposit etc.

The workers marched to the rest house and submitted memo to the Chief Minister. 5,000 workers attended this march. (42)

A strike was held by R.G.K.U. on 4th Oct., 1977 against the arrest of Mrs. Indira Gandhi by the Janata Government. This strike was successful. There was a strike launched by the workers in 1979. A large number of the workers were involved in this strike. This strike took place to press demands of the workers. The demands were-increase of Rs.45. in their wages as the Bombay Mill workers were receive these benefits and take the workers of Solapur also demanded the hike of 45 Rs. in their wages. Many meetings were held by the G.K.U. This struggle continued for six days from 26th Sept., to 1st Oct., 1979. It is alleged that the R.G.K.U. leaders and members tried hard to sabotage the strike. But they did not succeed. At last the demands of the workers were granted by the mill owners, when these demands of the workers were granted by the R.G.K.U. claimed that the workers got these benefits because of the Rashtriya Girani Kamagar Sangh's .....

efforts.<sup>(43)</sup>

Our above discussion of many strike that took place in the city make it clear that there was a completion between the two unions as they belonged to the congress party and the opposition parties.

#### THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TRADE UNIONS.:

Solapur is one the industrilized cities of Maharashtra. There are three big cotton mills and a number of spinning mills in this city. The labour movement in these mills have also a long history. These labourers organised themselves into two main unions namely the Girani Kamagar Union and Rashtriya Girani Kamaga Sangh. Now, days there some other unions are also working. But above mentioned two unions are quite old.

The Rashtriya Girani Kamagar Sangh is connected with the congress party. The aims of this union is to solve the problems of the workers to in peaceful way and maintenance s\_tability in industrial area. In this way they want to play an important role in nation-building.<sup>(44)</sup>

The Girani Kamagar Union was established by the all leftist and opposition parties. In this union in P.W.Party C.P.M., C.P.I. Socialist, Janata etc party members were involved. Mainly this is the leftist union. This union

believed in struggle to get injustice righted. They used all the means such as strikes, fasts, marches, public meetings etc. to voice the problems of the workers.<sup>(45)</sup> As mentioned above these two unions have different approaches at the problems of the workers.

now/ The Rashtriya Girani Kamagar Sangh (R.G.K.U.) is a recognized organization. But there is a demand by the G.K.U. that it is not the representative union and the method of its recognition is faulty. But no one took case of this demand until today. Because of this recognition, the mill owners and the government always held talks with R.G.K.U. as it was a recognised union and in the process of negotiations the GKU was neglected R.G.K.U. always sought to support the policy of government and behaved in moderate manner as against this the G.K.U. adopted the militant posture. But normally the workers do not have any ~~xxx~~ regard for both the unions but the membership of workers an R.G.K.U. in more than G.K.U.<sup>(46)</sup>

7 Because of their different approaches there is always a tension between these two unions some times they were found to be competing with each other and also going to the extent of militant <sup>ini</sup> ~~enimical~~ fights among themselves. We can understand the rivalry between there two unions by the following evidences - when the strike are launched by G.K.U. and most of the strikes are led by G.K.U., R.G.K.U. attempts sabotage the strike or struggle of workers. R.G.K.U. used all the means to break the strike . In this R.G.K.U. is supported by

the government and mill owners. It feels that if G.K.U. succeeds its support base will be eroded.

In 1957-58 there was a strike under the leadership of the G.K.U. to press demand that N.G. Mills must be started under the government management. But Mr. Athawale the president of Maharashtra I.N.T.U.C. opposed this strike. The G.K.U. blamed R.G.K.U. members for sabotaging the strike. But when this demand was met R.G.K.U. leaders claimed that this action was taken due to R.G.K.U. (47)

An agreement was made by R.G.K.U. to cut in Daffers in the ring deptt. of Shri. Laxmi Vishnu Mills. To protest against this agreement the workers started a struggle under the leadership of G.K.U. At the same time R.G.K.U. tried hard to sabotage the struggle. (43)

In 1970 there was a strike launched by G.K.U. and leaders like Mr. Yadvarao Thite, Mr. Bhimrao Rone, Com. Aadam Master the leader of G.K.U. and other members were standing on the mill gates to stop the workers who were going on their duty. Similarly, R.G.K.U. members were trying to send the workers in the mill under the Police protection. They also told the workers that strike was not the right way of solving the problem. (49)

Some small strikes are also launched by the R.G.K.U. But they were nominal but the competition between these two

trade unions always goes to the extent of militant enemical fight among themselves. Because of this some violent incidences occurred.

R.G.K.U. is a recognised union therefore the G.K.U. leaders always marched to the R.G.K.U. office with workers and submitted charter on demands. They abused the leaders of R.G.K.U. as the ~~agents~~ agents of capitalists and apologists of government. R.G.K.U. always had discussion with mill owner or governments and made an agreement. Sometime these agreements are harmful to the interests of workers. Therefore the workers were dissatisfied with the union.

The meetings of G.K.U. are always held in front of the R.G.K.U. offices. The offices of both the unions are in ' Bhaiyya Chowk '. In the meeting the leaders made speeches. These violent speeches cause considerable violence in the city. And some times the workers attacked the R.G.K.U. office many time the clashes took place among the members of these unions Mr. Athawale the president of R.G.K.U. was attacked by a person and was killed in the process in 1961. There is no detailed information about this. But it is said that this was a part of rivalry between the two union.

Mr. Kisanrao Basutkar member of the R.G.K.U. was also killed by a person on dated 21/3/1973 at midnight when he was coming back from his job. Violent incidents always took place within the mill compound at times causing death of few people.



The workers attacked the R.G.K.U. office and threw stones at the R.G.K.U. office, Many time, one important incidence occurred in 1980. The workers were very angry over the role of R.G.K.U. They thrown the stones on their office, some workers poured kerosene on the office and the R.G.K.U. office was set on fire. The building of R.G.K.U. office was destroyed by fire and many important files were burned. The members of G.K.U. Mr. Vitthalrao Sangar, Mr. Swami, Mr. Subhash Gavali Mr. Karajagi Mr. Yashin Shaikh were arrested for above violence. (50)

Thus the rivalry between these two unions reflect the political struggle between the congress and the opposition parties. The R.G.K.U. is a recognised union and it works in league with the government and the mill owners. The G.K.U. is bound to go violent because it is not in a position to displace the R.G.K.U. There are internal conflicts within these unions but they are not discussed. Thus some times the rivalry assumes violent form killing some important people.

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