

Tata-Marcopolo workers begin indefinite fast

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Tata-Marcopolo workers during the hunger strike in Dharwad on Tuesday. — Photo:by special arrangement

The ongoing imbroglio over the labour unrest at the Tata-Marcopolo unit here has taken a new turn with the workers launching an indefinite fast outside the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Tuesday demanding that the company resume its operations.

The hunger strike was launched under the aegis of the Krantikari Kamgar Union affiliated to the Trade Union Centre of India (TUCI).

TUCI State president R. Manasaiah alleged that the company had illegally suspended the operations at the Dharwad unit citing flimsy reasons. The company officials were not responding properly, even as government officials had convened several reconciliation meetings.

Industries Minister R. V. Deshpande and Minister of State for Labour and Employment P.T. Parameshwar Naik appeared to be least bothered to sort out the issue.

“A large number of workers' families have been in trouble due to the lockout,” he said.

Mr. Manasaiah demanded that the company pay the salary for the period of lockout, reappoint two of its members who had been dismissed from service, and revoke the suspension of 19 other workers.