

## Trade unions threaten stir over jute mill lockout

- Staff Reporter

Cutting across party lines, leaders have demanded that Sri Bajrang Jute Mills be reopened immediately in view of the deteriorating living conditions of over 3,000 workers.

Jute Mill Trade Union leader Lella Appireddy who convened a meeting on Wednesday said that an intense agitation would begin from April 18. Hundreds of workers would lay siege to the office of District Collector and begin an indefinite fast. Demonstrations would also be staged in front of the mill.

Former MLA K.S Lakshmana Rao, senior advocate Y. Koteswara Rao, BJP leader K.V Subba Rao and others were present.

“It has been more than nine months since the mill management has declared a lockout. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu gave an assurance to the agitating workers on October 2 that the mill would be reopened, but the mill management continues to act brazenly. This will be our final battle against the mill management,” Mr. Appireddy said.

The mill was started in 1935 and after a brief lockout period, was acquired by Davu Gopal Lunani and his family in 1994.

The family also owns jute mills in Eluru and Rayapur.

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Printable version | Mar 31, 2016 9:54:40 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/trade-unions-threaten-stir-over-jute-mill-lockout/article8415460.ece>