

Jobless workers of spinning mills waiting for government help

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Bijnor: During a whirlwind campaign in the district, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav had promised to revive all the 11 spinning (dhaga) mills of the Uttar Pradesh if voted to power. Yadav was voted to power with a thumping majority.

Now, four years later, when his tenure is about to complete, thousands of jobless mill employees are still waiting for Yadav to fulfil his poll promise.

One of the spinning mills was in Nagina town of Bijnor.

It shut down its operations in 1982, leaving 1,500 employees jobless.

About 30 families are still living in the premises of the mill with the hope

that it will start functioning again with the government's help.

During the 2012 poll campaign, Yadav had announced that Nagina's katai mill will be revived.

Shriram, a former mill employee, told TOI, "I was 25 years old when I was appointed a clerk in the mill. But, after some years, the mill was closed. The government did not provide our dues."

"We were happy when Akhilesh Yadav assured us that the mill will be started again. But, the government did nothing to start it so far."

When contacted, Nagina SP MLA Manoj Paras told TOI: "The government is committed to start all the 11 katai mills in the state. Two years ago, our government had passed a proposal in the Cabinet in this regard. The government had decided that the closed katai mills should be given on lease, but no company or individual came forward."

"There are dues of power department, labour department and workers on these mills. All machines also have become old and dilapidated. They cannot function. Therefore, the government is gearing up to sell mill's extra property to Avas Vikas Parishad so that these mill could be started again," the MLA said.