

Worker dies on duty, tension in Manesar

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GURUGRAM: Hundreds of workers from IMT Manesar protested on Thursday, following the death of a labour. Deceased worked in an auto parts manufacturing unit and died after he got stuck in the conveyer belt. The workers alleged that the management did not make any efforts to provide timely medical help to the deceased which caused his death. The agitated workers, vandalised the factory's property and affected work in other auto sector units too.

Deceased Shatrughan Prashad (37) hailed from Bihar and currently lived at village Kasan near Manesar with his wife Kalavati Devi and children- a daughter and a son. Prashad was working at SPM Autocomp Systems Private Limited in sector 3, IMT Manesar since last three years. The company manufactures Exhaust Manifold for Maruti Suzuki India Limited and over 500 workers work here.

Prashad was a contractual labour currently posted near the mixture plant on the first floor. He reached the factory at 7pm on Wednesday and his shift was to end at 7am on Thursday. The incident took place at around 4am when Prashad's head got stuck in the conveyer belt. The company officials told TOI that "the deceased was working as a helper to the supervisor and he would clean the belt near the mixture plant on the first floor. However, he went to the ground floor without informing anyone".

"The incident took place in the far end corner of the floor and nobody saw what really happened. His hand somehow got stuck in the belt when the sand was passing on the belt, and within seconds he got entangled in the belt. He died after suffering a pressure on his chest area," said Pawan Singh, company's HR manager.

The workers alleged that the company officials did not make any efforts to save Prashad and they did not even tried to remove him from the belt.

"The workers thought that the company will release him but they did nothing and wasted a lot of time. Finally, the maintenance team took charge of the situation and they had to cut the belt in order to release Prashad. They then rushed the worker to the Rockland hospital, but he was declared brought dead. He could have been saved if the management had not wasted time and rescued him earlier," said Shiv Mohan, a factory worker.

Following this, the matter was reported to the police and investigations were carried on. However, the investigating officer left the premises at around 9:30am. Within minutes workers from Honda Motor Co., Ltd., Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Munjal Showa Limited, FMI Automotive Components Private Limited, Endurance Technologies Pvt. Ltd, Bellsonica Auto Component India Private Limited etc. barged and stopped the working in the factory.

Over 150 angry workers from the factory and other companies vandalized SPM Autocomp Systems's manufacturing unit. They damaged the windows, doors, furniture and machines in the factory premises leading to damages of around Rs 20 lakhs. The production was shut for the rest of the day and the night shift too was called off, leading to further production losses of Rs 30 lakhs.

Following this, the management informed the police and cops reached the spot at around 10am.

"Over 150 cops including SHO Manesar Jagdish Prasad reached the spot. They controlled the tension and asked the workers to protest peacefully. However, tension prevailed in the area as the workers continued to raise slogans against the company. Cops remained at their posts till 5:30pm i.e. till the company agreed to compensate the deceased. We will continue vigil in the area for next couple of days," said DCP (south) Ashok Bakshi.

Finally, the labour officials intervened in the matter and a meeting took place between the officials, company management and worker unions in the afternoon. It was decided that the management will pay give Rs 8 lakhs as compensation for Prashad's death, plus he will get all provident fund and other benefits.

"Also, Rs 3 lakhs have been put in fixed deposit for this daughter and Rs 5,000 will be paid every month as aid till his son turns 21. Also, the company will pay for the education of both his children," said Singh.