

DELHI

## Motihari workers protest at Jantar Mantar



**Nikita Bishnoi**

NEW DELHI, JUNE 02, 2017 08:40 IST

UPDATED: JUNE 02, 2017 08:40 IST

### Demand release of their wages, ex gratia for kin of labourers who committed suicide

A large number of workers from Hanuman Sugar Mill in Motihari, Bihar, gathered outside the JD(U) office at Jantar Mantar on Thursday to demand the release of their wages.

The protesters, led by Bandhua Mukti Morcha national president Swami Agnivesh, claimed that the factory owner had not paid them wages and PF arrears amounting to over ₹80 crore. As many as 600 labourers and 7,000 farmers have been denied payments, the protesters claimed.

‘No option’

On April 10, two workers of the mill – Naresh Srivastava(49) and Suraj Baith(50) – allegedly immolated themselves over the issue.

Naresh’s widow Poornima Devi claimed that her husband had no other option but to commit suicide.

“The workers have been fighting for their salaries since 2002. The government did not take up the issue even after a high court order and the labourers threatening to commit suicide,” said Ms. Devi.

Manohar Manav, another member of the Bandhua Mukti Morcha, blamed the police for not preventing the suicides.

Swami Agnivesh said they had demanded a CBI inquiry into the case and ex gratia for the families of the deceased workers.

‘Minister involved’

“Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh is hand in glove with the mill owner. The Modi government claims to have no corruption cases till now. But once this nexus is investigated, the corruption would become apparent,” said Swami Agnivesh.

×

Printable version | Jun 4, 2017 12:31:47 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/motihari-workers-protest-at-jantar-mantar/article18704824.ece>

© The Hindu





