

Worker's Initiative - Kolkata

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Date 31 August, 2018

Asbestos Workers of Kolkata have won the first battle

Defeating the pro-management Trade Union, ruling TMC party TU of Kolkata India, workers of Everest Industries Ltd (leading asbestos company) elected the struggling Trade Union. Today, 31 August 2018 the Registrar of Trade Union, Govt. of West Bengal has conducted the election by secret ballot for recognition of Trade Unions in Everest Industries Ltd in its Kolkata operations. The Everest Industries Ltd Permanent Employees Union (Registered No 28210) affiliated to Worker's Initiative – Kolkata won the election and emerges as Principle bargaining representative of workmen.

The Employees union in their election manifesto demanded that Management must change the asbestos fiber operation by adopting non fiber technologies, though the Management of the EIL opposes the demand refereeing the Government endorsement of safety of production process and most recent being the Rotterdam convention in Geneva. The pro-management Union has taken the shelter of Management's contentions opposes the demand for changing the fiber technology.

Relevant to say here that in this election main debate was on use of asbestos fiber in manufacturing operation. Political leaders of ruling party of West Bengal even the Member of Parliament Mr. Subasis Chakraborty, and also Chairman of Municipal Corporation, Councilor of Municipal Corporation involved in the election and in the gate meetings they forcefully supported the contentions of the Management and thereby oppose the demand for changing the asbestos fiber operation by adopting non fiber technologies. The said Member of Parliament, Councilor and Chairman remain physically present during the election and tried to influence the workers to support the pro-management union. But the workers of EIL remain united and voted for struggling union and elected as Principle bargaining Trade Union.

Needless to say here that the result of the election has advanced the Ban Asbestos struggle in India and in this regard, the elected union in its first Executive Committee meeting held after the declaration of election result adopted a resolution to organize all the Asbestos workers union of India at Coimbatore, Kymore, Nasik, Orissa, Hardwar and push forward the demand of abolition of asbestos fiber operations.

In solidarity,

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