

Summary of Interview

Name: Surindar

Place of Work: Coal transported from Sarisatali OCP to the Barabani Siding

Post: Dumper driver

Immediate employer: A transporting agency working under G.S. Atwal

Place of interview: Check post for measuring the weight of the Dumper

Language: Bengali

Date: 07/05/2005

Originally Surindar's family stayed in UP. 50 years before they came here in search of livelihood when he was 10 years old. His father is now dead. After that he did not go to their house. From my childhood he worked in a shop. Then he was standing in the queue of the car (garir line). During last 25 years he is engaged in the driving of truck. First he joined as a truck helper with wage Rs. 600/-. After one year he got promotion as truck driver. After driving the truck at Siliguri, Bhagaipur, Kolkata, Patna now he is driving the dumper of the subcontractor, a transporting agency for coal transporting from Sarisatali Coal Mines to Barabani siding. But he is the direct employee of the transporting company. Transporting company is taking on rent from the owners of truck and the driver and the helper are appointed by the owner of the truck. This owner gives wage to his drivers and helpers. Surindar is working here for last one year and three months. His present wage is RS. 3000 per month. Often they have changed owner of the truck because when one asked to increase the wage then owner said that dumper driver is available in Rs. 2000. "if it is not suitable to you than you can leave/" He feels hurdle to maintain expenditure of his family.

He does not know much about the Bengal EMTA company. But he listened that it is run by the power of local dada. His father worked in the ECU. If he got the job in ECU then he could earn more money, get more facility and leave. They made demand for leave in Sunday to their employer. About 150 drivers and 150 helpers stopped transporting work. But owners did not agree and made threat to sack them. Then they again started their work, if anyone from outside take the whole responsibility of the union then only it is possible. But till today no one could sustain as a leader.