

Summary Transcription of Interview

Mr. Sohan Lal Shinde
President, AITUC, Indore Unit

Interview taken by- Vineet Tiwari

Interview taken on dated- October 10, 2007

Interview shot by cameraman- Satyanarayan Patel

Place of Interview- Peepal ki Chawl, Kulkarni Bhatta, Sheelnath Camp, Indore.

Duration of Interview-

He worked in Kalyan Mill and was thrown out from the mill for his involvement in trade union activities. He was also elected as a corporator in Indore Municipal Corporation. In this interview, he narrates incident of illegal closure of Hukumchand Mill and the struggle waged by the workers in 1991-92. Under the joint action committee trade unions, as many as 10000 workers from all the seven textile mills of the town, came on the streets demanding reopening of Hukumchand Mill. He recalls that the then BJP government under the chief ministership of Mr. Sundarlal Patwa, was a very repressive government. Hundreds of workers were arrested and were pushed into jails where there were no space. According to comrade Shinde, one barrack can accommodate at most 60 to 65 prisoners. In this case, 400 odd workers were pushed into every barrack of different jails, not only in the district, but also in nearby district Ujjain. Workers were mercilessly beaten up in the jail. Many got seriously injured and one worker lost his life. Comrade Shinde narrates how with his presence of mind he saved the lives of at least 100 workers. His vivid description of workers' repression on that occasion is unnerving.