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MANGALURU

Beedi workers oppose amendment to COTPA

March 18, 2015 12:00 am | Updated 05:42 am IST - Udupi/Mangaluru:

GANESH PRABHU

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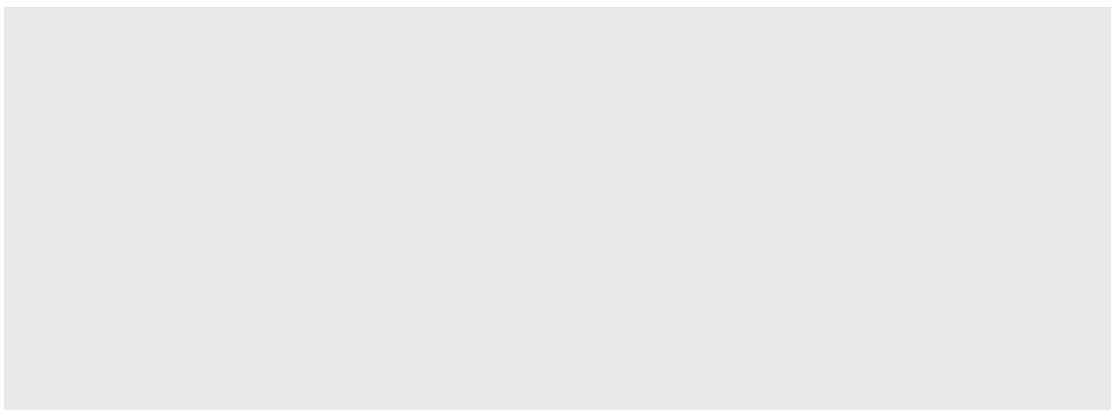
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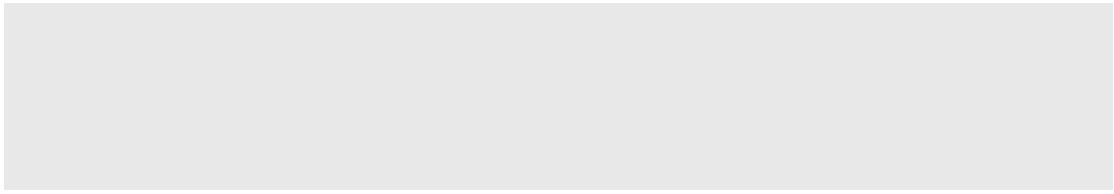
Beedi workers, affiliated to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions and the All India Trade Unions Congress, took out a procession and staged a dharna in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Tuesday against the Union government's move to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Product Act, (COTPA) 2003.

Addressing protestors here, Balakrishna Shetty, secretary of the district unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), said that there were nearly 10 lakh beedi workers in the State. Most of them did not have identity cards, log-books and other mandatory facilities.


'Govt. unresponsive'

In Mangaluru, beedi workers from different parts of the district marched from Town Hall to the office of the Deputy Commissioner where a protest meeting was held. Addressing the protestors, Centre of Indian Trade Union's representative Prasanna said the present Bill to amend COTPA will destroy beedi industry in the region. AITUC State Secretary Seetharam Beerinje said the government was not paying heed to the problems.





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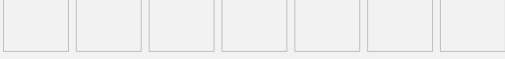
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