

**Deoram Bhosle (Bharatiya Kamgar Sena, affiliated to Shiv Sena)**

A short **biographical note** on Deoram Bhosle interviewed on June 30-July 1, 2003 in Sena Bhavan, Mumbai by Anil Rajimwale

Born on 10 June, 1948, I joined Mahindra & Mahindra after finishing my studies as a trainee. Since then, I have been a machinist in the company. I had done my SSC with technical subjects. In the course time, I became the president of the M&M Employees union.

Politically, I am affiliated to the Shiv Sena, and hence with its trade union wing, the Kamgar Sena, which belongs to the Bharatiya Kamgar Sena, started by our Supremo Bala Saheb Thakre. The founder president of the Bharatiya Kamgar Sena was a textile worker called Salvi. Earlier all the office bearers were appointed by the Supremo himself, now it is only the general secretary and the president that are nominated by him.

As a trainee, I got introduced to the trade union movement. Generally untrained workers used to be taken in the M&M, ITIC and ITC Ltd. I pointed out this shortcoming and demanded that all the workers must be trained so that they have the theoretical knowledge about their work.

I formed a local committee of the BKS in M&M with one thousand workers. Since then I am in charge of education and training of the workers. I am also associated with the training programmes organised by the Shiv Sena. I have organised workers' classes under the Central Education Board and also IWE courses.

It was at the initiative of the Shiv Sena that all the trade union centres were brought together to organise a Maharashtra Bundh for the first time in the history of the state. We have always opposed LPG (liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation).

We also oppose the government policy of changes in the labour laws that are against the interest of the workers. Laws should only be changed when necessary and should be in favour of workers.

Though the BKS took part in the joint actions with the central trade unions, their attitude has never been favourable. They took us as junior partners and took us for granted.

I am also a member of a 150-member central executive committee at all India level.

Among struggles that I have taken part in are those by the BKS for pension scheme in the engineering industries like Godrej, Larsen Toubro etc, medical schemes for the workers and their families, treatment by medical practitioners, and work in educational and cultural fields. I am closely associated with the expansion of BKS in other parts of the country.

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A **short transcriptive note** on Deoram Bhosle interviewed in Sena Bhavan, Mumbai on June 30 and July 1, 2003 by Anil Rajimwale

Deoram Bhosle was born on June 10, 1948. He has been in the trade union movement for last 32 years, and continues to be the vice president of his organisation for last 20 years.

Deoram Bhosle did his SSC with technical subjects before joining Mahindra & Mahindra company in 1967 as a machinist. His union here is called Mahindra & Mahindra (M & M) Employees Union. Deoram is also Vice President of the state unit of the Kamgar Sena. Bharatiya Kamgar Sena (BKS) is the trade union wing of the Shiv Sena. BKS was established by Bala Sahaeb Thakre on August 9, 1968. He blessed it with his good wishes and nominated a textile worker, Salvi, as its first president. Supremo, as Bala Saheb is called by his followers, used to nominate all the office bearers of the BKS earlier but has changed the practice and now only president and general secretaries are nominated by him.

Deoram Bhosle was attracted to trade union movement when he joined M&M. Most of the workers here were given no training. Bhosle insisted on training the workers and offer them the theoretical knowledge about the job they were managing and also other skills. Bhosle formed an organisaion to conduct the agitation on these demands. Ultimately their demands were accepted by the management.

Soonafter Bhosle organised a local committee of the BKS and enrolled a thousand workers as members. Bhosle became the vice president of the organisation.

Bhosle is also looking after the automobile and engineering industrial workers alongwith few other unions.

Bhosle is basically in charge of the education and training of the workers and cadres including those in the Shiv Sena. All social and personal problems of the workers are referred to the local unit of the BKS. Bhosle has also conducted training under Workers' Education Board and IWE courses. For this perpose, BKS has a training centre at Pune.

The first president of the BKS was Salvi, a Congressman and worked in RMMS.

Bhosle is keen about trade union unity. According to him, Supremo's son Uddhavji Thakre is also keen about the unity of the working class and took initiative to bring together AITUC, CITU, BMS, SS, INTUC and others on the same platform. The joint action in Maharashtra on 23 March and 24 April 2001 were the results of his efforts and the unity blossomed into first ever Maharashtra Bandh too.

Bhosle also claimed to be against LPG (liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation). He wants joint action aganist the menace of LPG and vehemently criticises the changes in labour policy introduced by the central government. He supports reforms in favour of the workers.

Bhosle informed that apart from the thousand members in his unit, there are 75 other Shiv Sena inspired trade union wings all over the country, with full time secretaries and office staff. BKS also has fully furnished legal wing with four legal advisors. Each secretary looks after a certin area or wing. No Shiv Sena leader is in the leadership of the BKS except the Supremo himself who offers his directions when sought.

Bhosle also said that his union works for better productivityand industrial peace and welfare of the workers. They all are inspired by the Shiv Sena but once in BKS they have hardly any connection with the Shiv Sena. BKS works indenpendently of the party. However they do collect political fund for the Shiv Sena. BKS has an executive committee with 150 members. Bhosle is one of its members.

BKS has both Maharashtrian and non-Maharashtrian members irrespective of their caste and creed. They have two Muslim leaders called Sabir Sheikh and Aiyaz Ahmed. Sabir Sheikh was once even cabinet minister in the Shiv Sena ministry in Maharashtra. According to Bhosle there are good people among Muslims too. However, he propogates Hidu ideology, though not in the BKS.

BKS has several achievements to its credit like implementation of pension scheme in engineering industries, medical schemefor workers and their families, wage settlements, provision of medical practioners for treatment, activities in cultural and educational fields and several others.

BKS also extends help and cooperation at personal level. Many cases are referred to local units of the Shiv Sena that are called Shiv Udyog Sena.

BKS also works among the employees of banks. LIC, Corporations, small scale units, MIDC, teachers among others. BKS has been successful in launching a death relief fund in M&M and Bajaj. BKS has its units in Railways and docks also.

BKS has the slogan of taking care of the product and production and maintain quality.

Bhosle was a delegate to the all India delegate session of the Shiv Sena.

Bhosle added finally that Hind Kisan Kamgar Sena is another all India organisation of the Shiv Sena to include the peasants. It has been recently formed.