

May  
2018  
PUDR

# LIVING, WORKING and DYING in BAWANA

*people's union for democratic rights*

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# P U D R

## Fact Finding

## Report on

## Workers

## of Bawana

## Industrial

## Area



**O**n 20 January, 2018, a massive fire engulfed a factory in Bawana's Industrial area, killing 17 workers, including 10

women. Out of these ten women one was a young girl of 13 and another was a pregnant woman. Apart from these, thirty other workers suffered injuries. The factory was registered as a plastic factory but was storing and packaging firecrackers.

News of this gruesome accident led PUDR to conduct a fact finding into the specific incident and also the overall working conditions of workers in Bawana Industrial area.

Our fact finding team visited the site of the above factory and spoke with the workers who worked there. We also spoke with the workers working in the other industrial units in Bawana. This brief report brings to life the precariousness of workers lives in the national capital Delhi

# Bawana Industrial Area

Supreme Court in its order dated 19 April 1996 on a petition filed by M.C.Mehta (I.A. No 22 in Civil Writ Petition no 4677/85 M C Mehta versus Union of India) observed that as per Delhi Master Plan (MP) 2001, non-residential activities were permitted in residential areas



only under certain conditions laid down in the MP. And ordered that these conditions were being flouted and, therefore, all non-residential activities should be moved out. Under this order DDA acquired 2314 hectares and a model industrial area was planned at Bawana.

Before acquisition, this fertile land with “Khadar soil” and high water table due to being close to river Yamuna yielded multiple crops. The villages were settled by Jats belonging to Sehrawat Gotra, with a fairly large population of Dalits who worked on the land. Since 1993 the Bawana constituency was designated a reserved seat for SC candidates.

Apart from Bawana Industrial Area, also called SP Mukherjee Industrial Park, Bawana also houses an Air Force Station, a CRPF camp as well as Rajiv Gandhi Stadium. In 2001 the Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation or DSIIDC of the Delhi Government allotted plots to Small and Medium size enterprises which were compelled to move out of Delhi, especially from its residential areas/colonies. What is lesser known is that the Jhugi Jhopdi (JJ) colonies from RK Puram, Laxmi Nagar, Vasant Vihar, Trans-Jamuna etc. were emptied some of their residents were moved to Bawana JJ colony and others who resided on Railway land were moved to Metro Vihar.

## Land Use & Distribution

Bawana Industrial Area is spread over an area of 778.17 Ha (1922.10Acres). Out of this 53% of the area has industrial plots, 14% is for recreational and 6% for commercial activity.

**Source: DWG no. DSIDC/RITES/UD/2001/Land use plan (Revised)**

<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Area (Acres)</b>	<b>%</b>
Industrial	414.13	1022.9	53.22
Residential	9.13	22.55	1.17
Commercial	43.91	108.46	5.64
Recreational	106.36	262.71	13.67
Common	34.56	85.36	4.44
Utilities	30.13	74.42	3.87
Circulation	139.96	345.7	17.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>778.18</b>	<b>1922.1</b>	<b>100</b>

The Bawana Industrial Area is divided into 5 sectors and each sector is further divided into clusters of 7 ha, so as to provide necessary facilities and services to estimated 27,000 industrial workers in a sector. These clusters have industrial plots with sizes varying from 100 to 250sqm. Each sector and cluster of Bawana Industrial Area is planned, so claims the DSIDC website, so as to provide necessary facilities and services to cater to the industrial requirement.

**Plot Area/Size (Based on Bawana Industrial Source)**

The Bawana Industrial Area consists of 16312 Industrial plots. The details of industrial plots in the Industrial area are as below:

Plot size:    100 Sqm                    150 Sqm                    200 Sqm                    250 Sqm

Sector-1	1588	913	186	471	3158
Sector-2	1838	922	120	557	3437
Sector-3	3787	1954	445	1479	7665
Sector-4	417	203	73	124	817
Sector-5	603	251	97	284	1235
<b>Total</b>	<b>8233</b>	<b>4243</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>2915</b>	<b>16312</b>

**Industries and Population (Based on Bawana Institutional Source)**

Industry	No. units	Direct Worker Population
Food Products & Beverages	65	241
Wearing Apparel : Dressing and Dyeing of fur	42	222
Publishing, Printing & Reproduction of Recorded Media	234	722
Chemicals and chemical Products	50	231
Electrical Machinery and Apparatus	379	2337
Rubber and Plastic Products	677	5010
Basic Metals	146	772
Fabricated Metal Products except Machinery & equipments	195	1031
Machinery and Equipments	100	529
Others	61	226
Total	1949	11321
Direct Employment 2009-primary survey		11321
Floating Worker Population @ 20%		2264
Total Worker Population		13585

# Metro Vihar

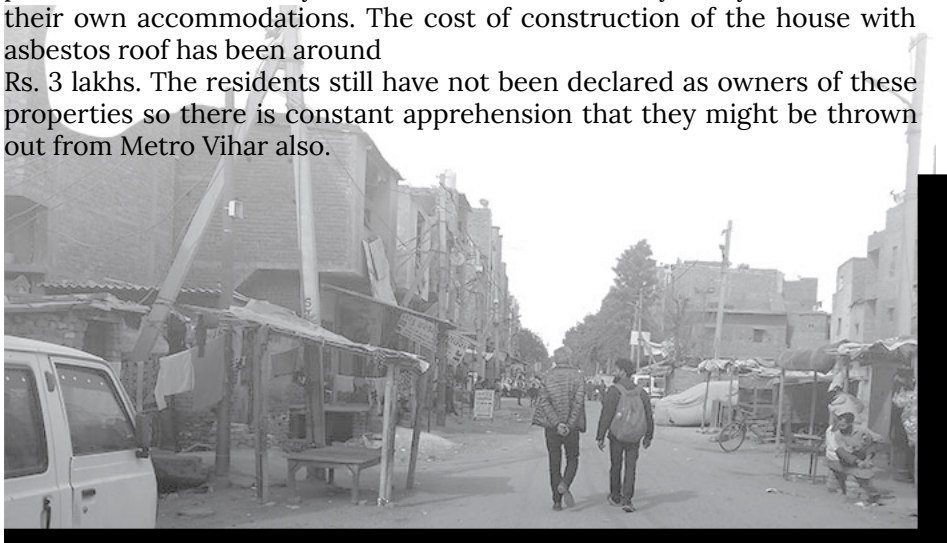
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‘Metro Vihar’ is right next door to Bawana Industrial Area. As a result the management of the Bawana factories have a “captive” labour force right next door. This arrangement also cuts down on travel cost and time for workers. The conditions and terms of work are dictated by the unit owners whose bargaining capacity is much higher than that of the workers desperate to find work. Thus wages are kept low and working hours long.

Of the 17 workers who were killed in the Bawana factory fire on 20 January, 8 were from Metro Vihar. The living conditions in Metro Vihar are not very good. In fact the workers claim that their lives were marginally better when they lived in their jhuggis in Delhi, from where they were removed. After years of working hard many of these people had made their jhuggis in Delhi livable. When displaced they were promised a better life in Metro Vihar, but after 18 years the promises ring hollow and the people are struggling for accessing basic services. All this is in violation of the Delhi Master Plan.

The DMRC levelled the land and plotted the settlement, it also earmarked land for school and three government schools were established. Apart from that no facilities were provided and the families here were left to fend for themselves. Each family was given a plot of 18 square yards for a sum of Rs.7000. They were not compensated for being uprooted from their earlier locations. For many days people lived under plastic sheets. They were dependent on water tankers for drinking water. There were no provisions for electricity, water or road connectivity. They had to build their own accommodations. The cost of construction of the house with asbestos roof has been around

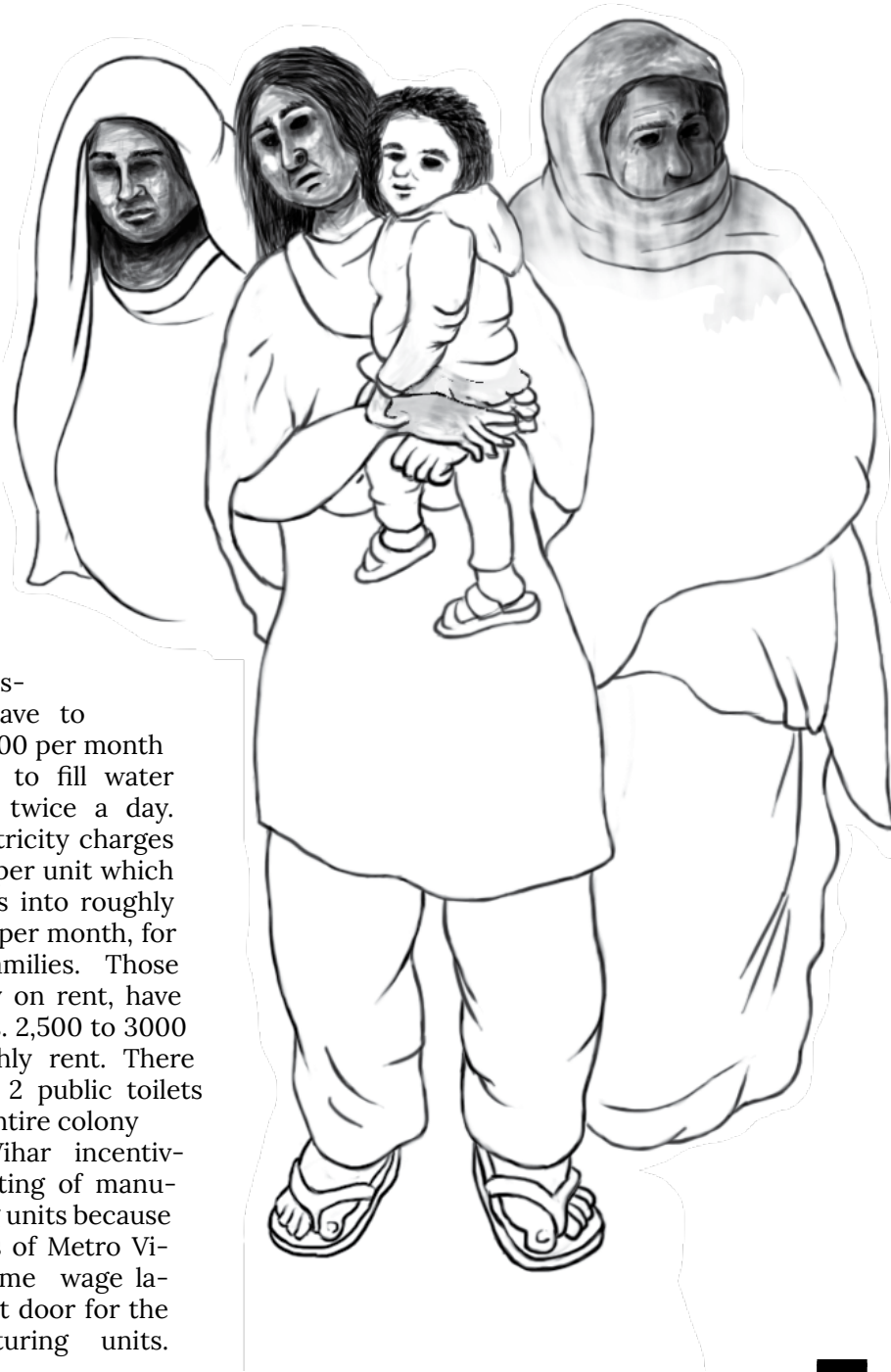
Rs. 3 lakhs. The residents still have not been declared as owners of these properties so there is constant apprehension that they might be thrown out from Metro Vihar also.



Even today, the colony has no water

connection.

The residents have to pay Rs. 300 per month in order to fill water once or twice a day. The electricity charges are Rs.5 per unit which translates into roughly Rs. 1000 per month, for many families. Those who stay on rent, have to pay Rs. 2,500 to 3000 as monthly rent. There are only 2 public toilets for the entire colony Metro Vihar incentivized shifting of manufacturing units because residents of Metro Vihar became wage labour next door for the manufacturing units.



The shorter commute an advantage but the settlement far away from other urban centres, and amenities.

Ironically while the 'mazdoor basti' is called 'Metro Vihar' it is more than 13 kms away from the nearest Metro station in Rithala 18. When they first settled here the residents had was no



provision to travel from Metro Vihar to Delhi to continue their jobs. Even now it is difficult to travel from Metro Vihar to various places in Delhi. The bus route takes longer because of narrow and congested roads leading to Bawana from Rohini. There are only two to three bus routes and the buses come only once or twice a day. Lack of proper public transport curtails the possibility of taking up any new job in Delhi.

There is one dispensary in Metro Vihar Phase 2, but the doctor does not come daily. hospital remains a distant dream. The nearest hospital is Government Valmiki hospital in Khurd Kalan about 7 kms away. The next nearest one is a Government hospital called Raja Harishchandra in Narela about 11 kms away. The industrial area does not even have an ESI hospital. The area witnesses fires big or small frequently and that keeps the fire brigade on their toes. However they are short on staff and fire fighting vehicles.

Even today, many families have no ration cards. For taking any loans, they need to pay interest at 10 % per annum.

There is no security for the workers here. Incidents of workers being attacked by goons while returning from work at night are quite common. These incidents more commonly happen while the workers are going home after collecting their wages. No police patrolling happens at night. There are Police Station inside Bawana Industrial Area, however from Sector 5, where this factory is also located, the Police Station is 8 kms away in Prahladpur. The Nearest Labour office is located in Nimri Colony, Lawrence Road, Ashok Vihar about 21 kms away.

## 1. Incident



The factories in the area are identified by the Plot number and not by names. The factory where the accident occurred was in Sector 5, F-83. This unit was operating as a firecracker storage unit, though it had a license for some other work. The factory is situated on a 100 sqm plot and has three floors and a basement. Gun powder



was stacked in the basement of the factory. Around 30-40 people worked in the factory. However no I card was issued to anyone. Most of the workers of this factory live in Metro Vihar.

On 20 January 2018, the day of the fire, the owners said they had to supply goods urgently and promised workers higher wages. Five women who were first timers at the factory (Meena, Rakhi, Canchal, Guddi and Tara) left for home at 5.30 pm as they could not deal with the conditions inside, including the strong smell and dust. Other workers were forced to do overtime.

The fire began at around 6:30pm. It started from the ground floor and soon spread through the entire structure. Other buildings near this factory however seem to have remained unaffected. It is a common practice in the area that the factory gate is locked from outside by the owner once the work begins. The factory gate was also locked the day of the incident, so that the workers do not leave before finishing their overtime work. The building had no evacuation system in place. There were no smoke detectors, alarms and water sprinklers in the building.

Death of 17 workers due to fire at this factory in Bawana was the biggest toll since the incident of fire in Old Delhi's chemical market in 1999 where 57 workers had died in a fire.

we tried to find out the number of workers who were working on the fateful day in the unit. A neighbourhood 'chaiwala' (tea seller) told us that he had provided 42 cups of tea around 4 pm. Many survivors we spoke to said that they suspected that the number of people killed was more than 17. They said that 8-9 workers lived in the rooms in the terrace of the unit and no one knows anything about their whereabouts. However, we could find no corroboration for this suspicion. Moreover no one from Metro Vihar we

met reported about anyone being missing.

According to Virendra Singh, the Deputy Chief of the Delhi Fire brigade, the MCD (North Delhi), gave license to the factory without getting a No Objection Certificate (NOC) He further said that the MCD also did not instruct the factory owner to follow fire safety guidelines. He said that if the factory owner had contacted the fire brigade then they would have built two fire exits, which are part of fire safety norms. Most of the factories in Bawana do not have two safety exits in the units. (See also BOX A).

On the day of the fire a video of North Delhi Mayor Preeti Aggarwal surfaced in which she was found to be telling her aides that they cannot say anything about the fire as the factory's license was issued by them. The relatives of all the deceased workers were paid 5 lakh as ex-gratia compensation by the Delhi government if they could identify their bodies.

## Investigation

The investigation into the fire was handed over from Police Station Bawana where FIR 36/208 was filed on January 21 to the Crime Branch since the case required extensive investigation. The police arrested the owner Manoj Jain on January 21, while the co-owner Lalit Goyal was arrested on January 27. Both are in judicial custody since January 31.

Jain lives with his family in Ganeshpura, Trinagar (New Delhi). Newspaper reports mention that he was running a toy factory in Bawana. He had to shut that because it was making loss. He began operating from F83, in January 2018, paying a rent of Rs. 25,000 per month.

Most of the owners of these factories are not the original owners. The ownership of factories has changed hands since the factories were allotted in the 90s. Even though the selling of these factories is illegal but has been taking place on large scale under Power of Attorney. Due to this unlawful transaction many factories also do not have documents and thus proper license.

Five other persons were also named as accused in the charge sheet. They are Surjeet Goyal, Girish Rathore, Sangeeta Vijay Yadav, Uma Mittal and Brij Bhushan Sood. Surjeet and Girish were business partners of Manoj and Lalit in another factory in Bawana. Uma Mittal had rented out the factory premise to Manoj. Sangeeta had provided chemical products including acid to Manoj. Surjeet and Girish were granted bail after being arrested. Sangeeta, Uma and Brij have not been arrested.

All the seven have been accused of offences under sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act

endangering life or personal safety of others), 120 (Concealing design to commit offence punishable with imprisonment), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) Indian Penal Code (IPC), and Section 9B of the Explosives Act, Section 15 Juvenile Justice Act, and Section 9 of Poison act

According to media reports, a supplementary charge sheet may also be filed in due course as a no-objection certificate from Delhi Pollution Control Committee to destroy crackers stored in another factory is awaited, along with the FSL reports.

## Working conditions inside the factory F83

The first shift started at 9am and continued till 5.30pm. The workers had to work 6 days a week. Saturday is an off day in Bawana. However if the a worker does not come to work on Sunday then the two days wages are cut.

Handling the firecrackers affected the hands and feet of



the workers and many of them also complained of difficulty in breathing while working. Many workers also told us that they were not aware that they were working with firecrackers. According to Firoz, his 55years old mother Madina who died in the factory fire was told that the factory made colours and toys. She was paid Rs. 6000/- for 12 hrs of work.

Despite the hazardous nature of their work, the workers were not provided masks. However the supervisors were given masks. The factory had two toilets for all the workers, men and women, which were cleaned once a week. There was no water and workers carried their own drinking water from home or were provided water by the factory owners in thermos flasks.

## 2.Industrial activity

Many units which shifted to Bawana Industrial Area are into manufacturing of goods such as plastic, batteries, dyes, packaging, etc. and generate noxious by-products. But the accident in which 17 workers perished when explosive material caught fire brought to light a more sinister side of the reality.

Most of the units are small units with roughly 20-25 workers of which majority are women. The work varies from making 'kabza' (hinges) for doors, segregating polythene bags which come from hospitals, making torches, air filters and many other similar work.

The working hours are from 9 am to 5.30 pm but with overtime, the work is carried on till 7.30 pm. There is a half hour break for lunch and a cup of tea is provided at 3 pm. In case the worker needs to take off even for an hour during the day, wages are deducted. Overtime work is not entirely voluntary, it is often forced. All workers reported that their working day is of 12 hour and they work 6 days a week. They are not entitled to any paid leave.

The wages are very low in Bawana. Women are paid Rs. 150-180 per day and men are paid Rs. 200-250. Wages are paid in installments on a monthly basis. They receive Rs.15-25 per hour for overtime. Thus women workers get Rs. 5,500-6000 per month and the men get Rs.8-9000 for 12 hours. Saturday is the weekly off but if the workers takes an off on Sunday additionally, then a total of Rs. 400 is deducted from the wages (Rs.200 each for both Saturday and Sunday)

The workers also do not have Identity cards (IDs) cards to certify that they are employees. There is no ESI Hospital and the nearest dispensary is at Narela. During inspections, the workers are either locked inside the factories or temporarily asked



to leave the factories. We were also told by workers that the contractor sorties would run away after taking all the money of the workers. It's futile to complain to the factory owners as they do not listen. It's difficult to trace these contractors since they do not possess any license.

The work conditions are such that minor accidents are fairly common. In 2017 Bawana reported 450 fire emergencies and five fire related deaths.

**Women workers-** Women have to complete household chores before and after factory hours. The monthly salary varies from around Rs. 5500 to 6000 which adds up to Rs.7000 with overtime. In some cases the wages can be as low as Rs. 3,500 per month. Provident Fund is not deducted because most workers are on short term contract which denies them PF. Often, the salaries are delayed. The employers prefer younger girls rather than women above the age of 35-40 years.

Most of the women started working once they were relocated to this area from various parts of Delhi around 2001. The women spoken to said that they did not need to work when they were located in areas like Laxmi Nagar, Gole Market etc. The earnings of their husbands sufficed. However, after being relocated to Bawana, earning having declined and two earnings are needed to meet the expenses.



### 3. Portrait of workers

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Vishnu, a 25 year old worker moved with his family in 2001 from Laxmi Nagar where their basti was located on Railway land. They were shifted to Bawana where DMRC provided 18 sq yards of land to them, this eventually became Metro Vihar. He works in a plant that manufactures air filters. Vishnu said that he began working at the age of 12-13 years, as his family could not manage otherwise after they moved to Bawana. He receives Rs. 6000 for 8 hours of work and Rs.3000 extra for overtime. Thus for 12 hours of work he gets Rs.9000 per month. When asked how he feels having worked half his life for such low wages he smiled wryly and said “What choice do we have?”. He said that if he complains or refuses to do overtime, the ‘malik’ tells him that he can quit as there are many others available to the work for the same or even lesser amount. ■

**S**onu who works in Silver and Steel utensil unit gets Rs.6000 for 8 hours and has to work overtime to earn more. Sonu started working with a salary of Rs.1200 per month and today, after ten years or more he gets only Rs. 6000. He said that though the work place is alright, the bathroom is dirty and cleaned only once a week. ■

**R**ajesh is from nearby Bhorgarh (Narela) and works in a packaging plant. He said that the wage rates are the same in Narela. He claimed that “factory owners” are united and have agreed among themselves not to outbid each other where wages are concerned. He also said that the owners have their men everywhere to ensure that “outsiders” or “union-wallas” do not operate here. This seemed to be true as while our team was speaking to workers, a car stopped and the person inside asked us who we were and demanded to show him our ID. He refused his identity and asked us about our purpose of going there. Firoz’s 55 years old mother Madina died in the fire incident of 20 January, 2018. Firoz has two siblings (brother and sister both mentally unsound). His father does not work. Firoz heard about the fire at 10pm while watching the television. When he reached there to enquire the police did not allow him near the factory and instead asked him to go to Puth Kalan hospital. When he reached Puth Kalan he was asked to go to Ambedkar Hospital in the morning. Firoz recognised his mother because her face was no■burnt.

In this factory Madina worked for Rs. 6000 from 9 in the morning till the evening. Madina had left another factory just 15 days earlier. Here she was paid Rs.5000 for 8 hours work but she left that factory because the working conditions were dangerous. She got an electric shock while working and was afraid that she might die. Firoz’s family shifted to Bawana from Mall road near Khalsa college. They had a jhuggi there and Madina used to work as a home guard.

**S**aroj is from Lucknow. He has two brothers who do odd jobs there. He studied till the 5th standard. He used to drive cars in Lucknow to earn a living, and shifted to Delhi in 2015 because of financial difficulties. He did not want to drive cars in Delhi because he was not familiar with the routes here. He came directly to Bawana. Here he works in a tape factory. The factory has two floors. He earns Rs. 9000 per month for 12 hours of work and had started working with a salary of Rs. 7000 per month. Saroj had to give his Aadhar card for getting employment in the factory but he hasn’t been given any identification card nor has his Aadhar card been returned. He works in the basement of the factory. He told us that While he has got used to working in the factory, it’s extremely uncomfortable for

new workers and that in the summers it gets very uncomfortable working in the basement There is only one toilet in the factory and is cleaned only once a week. While Saroj lives in metro Vihar and pays Rs. 3000 as rent, some workers of this factory spend the night on the top floor of the factory. Saroj is married and has two children. His wife also works in a nearby factory and gets Rs.5000 for 8 hours of work.He plans to go back to Lucknow soon.

**Ashmati Devi** from Sultanpur in UP, began working in the factory after her family was forced out of Gole Market. Her husband used to ply a rickshaw there but the earnings plummeted when they came to Holambi Kalan in north-west Delhi. Similarly, Phulwati from Jhansi was in Laxmi Nagar earlier. Her husband was a mason and she did not go out to earn then. After being relocated she was compelled to work in a factory. In fact, her daughter too had to start working and was one of the people killed in the accident of January.

**Sapna, Pooja and Gudiya Devi** are from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar work in D-67, Sector 5. They work in a cardboard factory. Sapna has been working for a year and gets Rs. 6000 for 8 hours of work. Gudiya Devi and Pooja only gets Rs. 5500 since she joined 2- 6 months back. There are 25-30 workers in this factory out of which 8 to 9 are women workers. These women work in packaging and folding. They do have ESI however their PF is not cut and they do not get any leave. They told us that it gets dark by the time they finish their overtime. They have to go back home on their own, the factory does not take any responsibility. Male helpers get Rs. 6000, while women helpers get Rs. 5500. There is only one toilet for both men and women. They get filtered drinking water in the factory and two cups of tea.

**Dayanand Mahato** is from Begusarai in Bihar. He lives in Holombi village and has been working in Bawana since 2004. He is a machine operator and get Rs. 11,000 for 12 hours of work. According to Dayanand, a helper only gets Rs. 6000. They get no holidays or leaves.. He also told us that workers are locked inside their factories while work is going on.

**Pyarelal** used to live in Gole Market but his jhuggi was demolished and he received an 18 acre plot in Metro Vihar. He runs small shop here. His children work in Lady Harding and visit him during the weekends.

Twenty four years old **Bhai Lal** from Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, works in a pipe factory in Sector 5. He does not know the name of his company. For 12 hours of work he gets Rs. 12,000, they are neither covered by PF (deducted from their wages) nor get enrolled for ESI. He gets one leave in a week and

one day holiday each for Holi, Diwali, Independence day and Republic day. Wages are deducted if he takes leave in case of an emergency . His factory is around 100 square yards and 7 people, including him, work inside. All of them sleep inside the factory. The factory runs for 24 hours in two shifts. Three workers work during the night and 4 workers during the day. Some of the other workers of the factory are Niraj, Suraj and Ganesh They get Rs. 9500 to Rs. 10,000 for 12 hours of work. The toilet in this factory is cleaned three times a week. While talking to us Bhai Lal was quite scared and asked us if he would get into trouble.■

**D**hiraj is from Dharbanga and lives in Metro Vihar. He works in Sector 5, and gets Rs. 9000 for 12 hours of work. He does not know what exactly he makes in this factory. In this factory also workers do not get any paid leaves, PF is not deducted and do not get ESI benefit.■

Twenty four years old Amit has been working for 7-8 years in Pragati Power Plant in Bawana on contract basis. For 8 hours of work he makes Rs. 10000. This company employs around 4000 to 5000 workers. He does not have ESI membership but PF is cut. He gets two days of leave during the week. The company gives him uniform and shoes. No medical benefits are given by the company, and in case of any illness etc. medical expenses are to be borne by the workers themselves.■

Eighteen years old Arun is from Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh. He began working 4 years back and right now work as an injection moulding machine operator in H77 Bawana. He gets Rs. 8000 for 12 hours. Wages are cut on taking leave. He said that there are very few companies which run for 8 hours, 12 hours is standard practice all over Bawana. The factory Arun is working in has 11 to 12 units in Bawana, employing around 250 workers. His unit has 20 workers. Of these around 15 live in four rooms within the factory. The rooms contain 2 toilets which the workers clean themselves. The toilet situated on the ground floor is cleaned by a cleaning staff. A 20 liter bottle is kept to provide drinking water to the workers. The owner of the factory bears the medical expenses of the workers if they get ill.

Thirty six years old Mohammad Shafi Alam, is from Sitamdi in Bihar. He works in Sector 5, H-80 factory which makes shockers for motorcycles. Because of the aluminium used, his hands have blackened. He gets Rs.12,000 for 8 hours of work and gets payment at single rate for the overtime work as against the statutory requirement of making payment at double the wage rate. Wages are cut on taking leave. He lives inside the factory with his family. If someone gets hurt in the factory the owner takes care of the medical expense however on falling ill the workers have to bear the expenses themselves.■



**S**uraj Bhan (26 years) and Kali Prasad (38 years) are from Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh. They work in an ice cream factory in Sector 5, E block. Sometimes they even work for 18 hours and get Rs. 12,000 - 13,000. Seven workers live inside the factory in one room. No PF is deducted nor are they enrolled with ESI. The gas used in the factory has affected their hair. ■

**D**ilip is from Devariya in Uttar Pradesh. He works in 293, D block Sector 5 inside a gas pipe line factory. There are around 26 workers in the factory. None of them are enlisted with ESI nor is PF deducted. Dilip gets Rs. 10,000 for 8 hours of work. For overtime they are paid at single rate. A male helper gets Rs. 7000 while a female helper gets Rs. 6000. Women workers leave the factory around 9 pm and go back to their homes in group. Dilip told us that a worker was recently attacked with a knife outside while he was going home after collecting his wages. If workers meet with an accident their medical expenses are taken care of by the factory owner. There are 6 rooms inside the factory and 12 to 13 workers live inside. Earlier Dilip worked in a factory in Sector 3 where he got Rs. 9000. Even in this factory he lived inside. ■



# Conclusion

**B**awana has recorded 61 incidents of fire between January-April 25, 2018. The incidents of fire are common in legal (licensed) as well as illegal (unlicensed) units. This in itself is a cause for concern because it points to cavalier attitude towards issues of work floor safety and protecting the workers from harm. That owners lock the unit exit gates to prevent workers from leaving is further reflection of 'forced' working conditions tantamount to bondage.

People from all over Delhi were uprooted from their homes and dumped in Bawana and became captive labour force for the Bawana industrial area. In this huge industrial area, implementation of labour laws is totally absent. Working hours are at the discretion of the factory owners, safety norms aren't being followed in any factories, minimum wages are not paid to most workers here. Delhi government's minimum wage for unskilled work is Rs. 13, 896. While this is lower than the Central Governments minimum wage of Rs.21,000 per month, even this lower amount is not being paid in Bawana industrial area.

Remoteness of the area and the lack of public transport made it difficult for people to continue their work from where they were shifted and still curtails the possibility of their taking up work in the other parts of Delhi. Bawana was promoted as a model industrial area, but even the resources available are less than the bare minimum. If the conditions in what was touted as a "model" industrial area are so horrific they would be no different in other industrial areas, such as the neighbouring Narela, Naraina etc. As the workers shift every few months from one unit to another, with short fixed term employment, possibility for them to organize themselves is remote. Trade unions are virtually absent. The absence of any unions and mobilisation of workers makes their lives even more precarious. And the Delhi Government, as well as the Municipalities remain absolutely indifferent.



## Demands

- Families of the victims of all incidents of fire in Bawana Industrial Area should be immediately compensated for death and injuries.
- The factory owners should be booked for these incidents and action should be taken against them for violation of safety norms.
- The Labour Department should take up thorough inspection of all units in the area and action should be taken to ensure implementation of labour laws.
- Appropriate action should be taken against the owners of factories for violation of labour laws.

BOX: [A] Fire Report Details Jan to April 2018, DSIDC  
Bawana

1.H-27, Sector-2, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Tuesday, January 2, 2018
2.Near L-12, Sector-5, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Tuesday, January 2, 2018
3.F 47, Sec 3, Bawana, Delhi. Thursday, January 11, 2018
4.N 251, Sec 1, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Thursday, January 11, 2018
5.Behind J/31, Sector-4, Bawana, Delhi. Thursday, January 18, 2018
6.H no 1162, A Block, J J Colony, Near Hanuman Mandir, Delhi. Friday, January 19, 2018
7.F-83, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Saturday, January 20, 2018 Approximate Distance From Fire Station: 3 Kilometers
8.E-41, sector-1, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Saturday, January 20, 2018
9.E-145, sector-3, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Saturday, January 20, 2018
10.Sector-5, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Monday, January 22, 2018

11.Near H-7, Sector-3, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Tuesday, January 23, 2018
12.N-1/96, sector-5, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Wednesday, January 24, 2018
13.M-9, Sector-3, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Tuesday, January 30, 2018
14.K-214, Sector-5, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Tuesday, January 30, 2018
15.Near I-54, Sector-2, Bawana, Delhi. Tuesday, January 30, 2018
16.Shri Ram Dharam Kanta, Firni Road, Bawana, Delhi. Tuesday, January 30, 2018 (non industrial)
17.A-15/11, DDA flats, pocket-4, sector- G-7, near Narela J.J. Colony, Delhi. Friday, February 2, 2018 (Non industrial)
18.H.No-211, Metro Vihar, Holambi Kalan Phase-2, New Delhi. Saturday, February 3, 2018(non industrial)
19.M-43, Sector-5, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Sunday, February 4, 2018
20.E- 218, Sector-3, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Saturday, February 3, 2018
21.M-226, Sector-5, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Saturday, February 3, 2018
22.P-121, Sector-5, Bawana, Delhi. Sunday, February 4, 2018

23.Harijan mohalla, Pooth Khurd, Delhi. Monday, February 5, 2018 (non industrial)
24.C-234, sector-4, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Tuesday, February 6, 2018
25.R.K.Electricals, A-158, Sector-5 Bawana Industrial Area, Near Gas Power Plant, Delhi. Thursday, February 8, 2018
26.H no N 1/23, 34, Sec 5, Bawana, Delhi. Friday, February 9, 2018
27.Sector-3, Block-C, DSIDC Bawana, New Delhi. Tuesday, February 13, 2018
28.B 97, Sec 4, Bawana Industrial area, Delhi. Wednesday, February 14, 2018
29.H 86, Near Mandir, Bawana industrial area, Delhi. Wednesday, February 14, 2018
30.Factory no.-117, N- block, sector-2, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Monday, February 19, 2018
31.Plot no.-23, I- block, sector-1, Bawana, Delhi. Wednesday, February 21, 2018
32.H.No-1171, F-Block, J.J.Colony, Bawana, Delhi. Thursday, February 22, 2018 (non industrial)
33.E-18, Sector-5, Bawana, Delhi. Friday, February 23, 2018 (non industrial)

<p>34.Barwala road,near Helipad, Delhi. Friday, February 23, 2018 (non industrial)</p>
<p>35.Sector-1, A- pocket, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Friday, February 23, 2018</p>
<p>36.Pooth Khurd, Radha Krishna mandir, main road, Delhi. Friday, February 23, 2018</p>
<p>37.No O 268, Sec 7, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Saturday, February 24, 2018</p>
<p>38.Bawana Industrial Area, sector-5, pocket-M, Delhi. Tuesday, February 27, 2018</p>
<p>39.Neelgiri Machinery, Pipeline Road, Pooth Khurd, Delhi. Thursday, March 1, 2018</p>
<p>40.G-Block, Near Tempo stand, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Thursday, March 1, 2018 (non industrial)</p>
<p>41.Narela road, Chhoti Nahar, Bawana, Delhi. Sunday, March 4, 2018 (non industrial)</p>
<p>42.Near Maa Bhagwati Dharam Kanta, sector-5, Bawana, Delhi. Sunday, March 4, 2018 (non industrial)</p>
<p>43.Sultanpur Dabas, gali no.-2, near Shiv mandir, Delhi. Tuesday, March 6, 2018 (non indisutrial)</p>
<p>44.Near Petrol Pump, Sector-1, Bawana, Delhi. Wednesday, March 7, 2018</p>

45.Near H.No-129, C-Block, Sector-1, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Thursday, March 8, 2018
46.H.No-345, H-Block, J.J.Colony, Bawana, Delhi. Wednesday, March 14, 2018 (non industrial)
47.G.H-170, Pocket-G, Sector-2, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Wednesday, March 14, 2018
48.Bada Gole Chakkar, Sector-3, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Wednesday, March 14, 2018
49.Near K-126, Sector-2, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Monday, March 19, 2018
50.L-45, Sector-3, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Monday, March 19, 2018
51.Near Q-140, Sector-2, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Wednesday, March 21, 2018
52.Near Shamshan Ghat, Pooth Khurd, Delhi. Thursday, March 22, 2018
53.H.No-152, Main Bus Stand, Chabu Panna, Pooth Khurd, Delhi. Friday, March 30, 2018 (non industrial)
54.Vardhman Industries, M-27, Sector-1, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Thursday, April 5, 2018
55.Jai Lakshmi Dharamkanta, Sannot Village, Delhi. Saturday, April 7, 2018
56.K-221, Sector-3, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Monday, April 9, 2018



57.C-195, Sector-1 Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Monday, April 9, 2018
58.E-107, Sector-3, DSIDC Bawana, Delhi. Sunday, April 15, 2018
59.E-Block, Jhanda Chowk, J.J.Colony, Bawana, Delhi. Sunday, April 15, 2018 (non industrial)
60.Near CNG Pump, Sector-5, Bawana, Delhi. Sunday, April 15, 2018
61.A 79, Sec 4, Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Thursday, April 19, 2018

*Box:[B] Table of fires in Delhi January 2018-April 2018*

Date	Area	Incident	Dead	Injured
11 January 2018	Usmanpur	1		5
15 January 2018	Narela	1		
20 January 2018	Bawana 5,3, sector 1	3	17	2
2 February 2018	Udyog Nagar (Peeragarhi)			1
10 February 2018	Karol Bagh	1	1	
12 February 2018	Bhorgad	1		

12 February 2018	Samaypur Badli	1		
12 February 2018	Udyog Nagar (Peeragarhi)	2		
24 March 2018	Swaroop Nagar (Godown)	1		
7 April 2018	Narela	1	2	
9 April 2018	Sultanpuri	1	4	1
16 April 2018	Narela	1		
17 April 2018	Nawada	1	2	1
20 April 2018	Badli	1		
22 April 2018	Gandhinagar	1	2	

January to April 2018, 28 people have died and 10 have been injured in fires in various factories in Delhi. ■



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