

## **The Hans India**

### **Contract Housing staff lose jobs after 10 years**

Hyderabad: Employees, who worked for 10 years in the Telangana State Housing Corporation Limited (TSHCL) and having worked for projects such as Indiramma Housing, are now without a job. As many as 1,179 outsourced employees were unceremoniously sacked by the State government at the end of financial year 2015-16 with a promise that they would be absorbed later in other projects but are still waiting to hear from the government.

Their contract ended on March 31 and the employees were promised that they would be part of the 2BHK project. In spite of several representations and with no response, the workers are now planning to launch a hunger strike at Indira Park from August 29.

K Shekar Reddy, general secretary of Telangana State Housing Corporation Outsourcing Employees Union, says, “We served the corporation for more than 10 years but today we are left in lurch. We were promised permanent jobs at the time of Telangana struggle. For the past five months, we have been struggling to make our both ends meet. Despite representations to eight Ministers, there is no trace of action.”

“We feel cheated,” said an employee. “Not a single Minister is taking up the issue. Right from A Indrakaran Reddy, Housing Minister, to the Finance Minister, everyone seems to pass the buck to others. The Finance Minister had promised that the outsourced employees’ demands would be taken up after the formation of the State but nothing has been done. Ministers of every hue are now placing the onus on the Chief Minister,” he said.

The issue was later taken up with the TJAC chairman M Kodandaram, who wrote to Chief Secretary Rajiv Sharma for finding some solution for this. He asked the government to consider request of the outsourcing employees on humanitarian grounds.

The employees are from different branches which include 94 Assistant Engineers (Diploma Civil, B Tech and M Tech Civil), 179 IT Managers (MCAs), Data Entry Operators (graduation with computer skills), Junior Assistants, Accounts Assistants (commerce graduation with computer skills), 690 Work Inspectors.

Their services were abruptly terminated, with assurance that they would be absorbed in some other projects like 2BHK. After putting all efforts to convince the government, the outsourced employees have now chosen to adopt a different strategy to achieve their demand.

After successfully protesting during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gajwel, by holding placards, they would be organising a hunger strike at Indira Park from August 29.