

Contractual staff demand regularisation of Jobs in Punjab

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Under the banner of the Punjab Government Contract Employees and Joint Action Committee, protesters, in what they called ‘Sangharsh Morcha’, today staged a protest and held a march against the state government over their long-pending demand of regularisation of their jobs.

They started the march from the District Administrative Complex to Fauji Chowk. They also announced that they would intensify their protest soon if the government failed to meet their demands.

Leaders of various unions blamed the state government of giving the cold shoulder to the demands of employees, who had been working in various government departments for the past 20 years.

Members of the SSA/RMSA Office Employees Union, MGNREGA Workers Union, Mid-Day Meal Office Employees Union, ICT Office Employees Union, Water Supply and Sanitation Workers Union, Rural Health Pharmacists, NHM Workers Union, Computer Operators Union and several other organisations participated in the protest.

“Permanent employees enjoyed all benefits but the contractual employees were being exploited by the government by being burdened with work for meagre salaries. Our future has been left in the dark,” said Didar Singh Mudki, a protester.

“As per the state government’s policy, the jobs of contractual employees were to be regularised after three years of service, but the government is not following its policy when it comes to regularisation of jobs of office employees. The government regularised the jobs of thousands of teachers but it didn’t do so to the

office employees similarly, despite the fact that they served as the backbone of any department,” said Dr Inderjit Rana.

“The government is playing politics and trying to lure voters by promising thousands of new jobs in government departments ahead of the elections that are due next year. The future of already existing employees is in dark. Government of Punjab should follow the example of Himachal Pradesh, which regularises jobs of its contractual employees after five years of service,” said Virpal Kaur Sidhana.