

The Hindu

NGOs oppose contract, outsourcing system of employment in State

The Andhra Pradesh Non-Gazetted Officers' Association on Friday asked the government to abolish the contract and outsourcing system of employment in the State and also opposed removal of pension for the employees who joined after 2004.'

The association organised a massive rally in Srikakulam as part of the nation-wide strike opposing the policies of the Union and State governments. Speaking on the occasion, the association's State associate president Chowdary Purushottam Naidu said that many employees who were hired on outsourcing and contract system were leading a pathetic life with meagre salaries. "The regular employees are also facing financial difficulties due to rising inflation. The government should take serious steps to control the prices of essential goods," he said.

APNGOs district president Hanumanthu Sairam, general secretary RVN Sarma and others alleged that the government was putting heavy work load on the existing staff by delaying recruitment process. They said over one lakh posts were lying vacant in bifurcated Andhra Pradesh.

CPI(M) district secretary Bhaviri Krishnamurthy, CITU leaders K. Srinivasu and D. Govinda Rao said working class was badly by the 'wrong' policies of the Union and State governments. "Relaxation of labour laws would lead to untold miseries in future. The corporate sector will fleece the workers further and cause industrial unrest," said Mr. Govinda Rao.

75,000 workers participate in strike

Around 75,000 workers participated in the strike on Friday with the joint call given by over 10 trade unions in the country. CITU, AITUC and other unions vowed to achieve Rs. 18, 000 minimum salary and strong labour laws in the country. Production in pharmaceutical industries and other units was hit by the strike in Pydibhimavaram region. Banks, insurance companies and public sector organisations remained closed.

Strike total, peaceful

Workers and employees owing allegiance to CITU, AITUC, IFTU, INTUC and YSRTU took out motorcycle rallies through the streets of

Vizianagaram and raised slogans denouncing anti-worker policies of the central and State governments on Friday.

All commercial banks, LIC and other private and public establishments downed shutters. Employees staged dharnas in front of their establishments. Auto drivers too participated in the strike causing hardship to public.

The rallies converged at the Collector's Office where M. Srinivasa (CITU), V. Krishnam Raju (AITUC), K. Sanyasi Rao (IFTU) and M. Srinivas (INTUC) addressed workers demanding Rs. 18,000 per month as minimum wages, lifting of ceiling on bonus and regularisation of contract/outsourced employees among others.