

Plantation workers stage protest over loss of jobs to Assamese

Claiming that the entry of people from Assam to work in estates in Belur and Sakleshpur taluks has taken away job opportunities from locals, plantation workers, under the banner of the All India Trade Union Congress, staged a protest on Tuesday demanding that the district administration take steps to resolve the problem.

The protesters took out a march from Hemavati Statue Circle to the Deputy Commissioner's office, where they staged a dharna. They argued that the Assamese, most of whom lack the skill to work in plantations, offer to work for lesser wages and thus are preferred over locals. The protesters also submitted a memorandum on the matter to the DC.

Saying that more and more Assamese are coming to the taluks in search of plantation work, the protesters said this is forcing locals to move out in search of jobs. They urged the district administration to resolve the matter by holding meetings with coffee planters and plantation workers' associations.