

## **The Tribune**

### **Contractual staff on roads to demand regular jobs**

Members of the Punjab and UT Mulazim Sangharsh Committee today took out a protest march from Teachers' Home to the District Administrative Complex and burnt an effigy of the state government over their demand of regularisation of their jobs.

The employees raised anti-government slogans during the march.

They said the state government was indulging in economic exploitation of contractual employees and those working as part of its outsourcing projects by making them work on meagre salaries.

Elaborating on their demands, the protesters said the jobs of daily wagers, contractual employees, anganwari workers, helpers, ASHA workers, mid-day meal workers, computer teachers, SSA/RMSA teachers and non-teaching employees, SSA/RMSA office employees, employees of the Forest department, MGNREGA Union members, IEV-STR, EGS and AIEE volunteers, education providers and roadways drivers and conductors be regularised and the vacant posts in government offices be filled immediately to make sure that the burden of work on the existing employees is reduced.

They demanded clearance of outstanding salary bills, various allowances be released, pay scales amended, release of the instalment of DA from January this year, along with clearance of inflation allowance dues, implementing the Minimum Wages Act for ASHA workers, mid-day meal and angawari staff, implementation of the old pension scheme and rejection of the new pension scheme, closure of false police cases filed against protesters and putting an end to police atrocities on them.

Leaders of various unions blamed the state government of turning a cold shoulder towards the demands of employees who had been working in various government departments for the past many years.

Member of the Mulazim Sangharsh Committee, Ranbir Singh Dhillon said, "The government has ignored their welfare. While permanent employees enjoy all benefits, contractual employees are being exploited by being burdened with huge work for meagre salaries."

He said as per the state government policy, the job of a contractual employee was to be regularised after three years of service, but the government has not been following its policy.

He said while the government regularised jobs of thousands of teachers, it didn't do so to office employees.

The leaders said before coming to power, SAD-BJP leaders had made tall claims of working for the welfare of employees, but even after nine years, they have failed to deliver on their promises.

They accused the government of playing politics and trying to lure voters by promising thousands of new jobs in government departments ahead of the elections next year.

The employees asked the government to follow the example of the Himachal Pradesh government, which regularised jobs of its contractual employees after five years of service.

They added that the Chief Minister promised on April 24, 2014 to constitute the sixth pay commission, but now, he has forgotten the promise.