

The Tribune

Democratic employees union presses for regular jobs

ASHA workers and facilitators, along with the mid-day meal workers, under the banner of Democratic Employees Federation, Punjab, today raised anti-government slogans against the Central and state government at Children's Park for not giving their rights and fulfilling their demands.

The demands of workers include minimum monthly wages of Rs 15,000, implementation of minimum wages for ASHA workers that should also cover the EPF, gratuity, pension and the employment insurance scheme (EIS).

President, ASHA facilitators, Amarjit Kaur said, "The number of ASHA workers is more than 25,000 in the state and about 800 in the district. We have been demanding monthly salary plus incentives like the ASHA workers get in Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala. The government should not ignore our demands otherwise we will intensify our agitation."

"Daily wagers, contractual employees, anganwari staff, helpers, ASHA and mid-day meal workers be given regular jobs. The vacant posts in government offices be filled immediately to make sure that the excess burden of work on the existing employees is eased," said NRHM Punjab convener, Narendra Kumar.

State president of Mid-day Meal Union, Karamjit Kaur demanded that as per the labour laws, the mid day meal workers should be given minimum wages.

"As per the Act, we should get Rs 7,715 a month. Besides, we demand that the government should provide an insurance of Rs 2 lakh to each worker," she said.