

Jobs not regularised, sikhya providers protest against govt

Members of the Sikhya Provider Teachers' Union of Dera Bassi Blocks I and II today staged a protest in favour of their long-pending demand of regularisation of their services.

Shamsher Singh and Sukhvir Singh, the district president and the senior vice-president of the union, alleged that the state government and the education department were ignoring their demand for a long time.

Protesters raised slogans against the Punjab Government. The protesters claimed that they had been working in the state for several years but the Punjab Government was still shying away from regularising their jobs. They claimed they devoted the prime of their lives to their profession but the government was giving them the cold shoulder.

The union leaders said, "Sikhya providers were recruited as per the procedure approved by the Punjab Government but were being meted out step-motherly treatment." The teachers were recruited by the government and their nature of job and responsibilities were equivalent to the regular teachers, they added.

Shamsher and Sukhvir said the Punjab Chief Minister had assured that all sikhya providers would be regularised but it did not happen till date. They said their protest would continue till their demand was met. They said they would hold a protest rally in Mohali on July 17.

The union leaders said sikhya providers were appointed by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority, Punjab. They were to be given full grade.

"However, it was not implemented till date in spite of our regular protests. The Punjab Government had made no policy to regularise the services of sikhya providers till date. It is very difficult for us to survive with the meagre pay we are given," they alleged.