

Nurses protest, want regular jobs; accuse govt of betrayal

The members of Nurses and Ancillary Staff Union intensified their agitation for regularisation of their jobs and in the process six nurses climbed atop a water tank at Rajgarh village near Bhakra canal at wee hours on Monday.

In the evening the paramedical staff also blocked the Chandigarh-Sangarur National Highway-64, causing inconvenience to the commuters.

The nurses, who were on indefinite strike since June 1 with their demand for regularisation of jobs, on Monday morning, climbed the water tank. Gurpreet Kuar, Jasmeet Kaur, Poonam, Amandeep Khokar, Jasmeet Sharma and Amandeep Chahal, climbed atop a water tank, while others kept sitting near the tank to support them.

“The government has failed to keep its promise as there is not agenda on regularisation of our jobs in the cabinet meeting scheduled on Tuesday. In the last meeting, chief minister’s principal secretary SK Sandhu had assured us that the agenda related to regularising jobs will be passed in next cabinet meeting. But they have betrayed us,” said, Karamjit Kaur, president, Nurses and Ancillary Staff Union.

“We have waited enough and have been protesting peacefully since 2013. But now the state government has forced us to climb on the water tanks and block the national highways. It is not our fault. It is the failure of the Punjab government,” she said.

Meanwhile, there was no indication from the government to resolve the issue, as Dr Manjit Kaur Mohi, director, Medical Education and Research, said, “We have informed the Punjab government about their demand and agitation. It depends on the government what action it takes regarding their demands.”

Deputy commissioner Ramvir Singh said, “We are trying to resolve the issue and negotiation is going on between the district administration and nurses. A number of protesting nurses have joined their services and the remaining will be convinced to do the same soon”.