

Baglihar Power Project

3000 workers sit on dharna against JP Associates in Banihal, demand wages

Rising Kashmir news

Jammu:

Over 3,000 workers of Baglihar Power Project have been protesting against the company management for a week, now, demanding release of payment of Rs 65 crores.

The workers have been sitting on strike under the banner of Chenab Hydro Project Workers Union (CHPWU) against the management of the Jai Prakash (JP) Associates who have constructed Baglihar Power Project.

The workers union alleged that the company has shown door to thousands of workers.

“They (JP Associates) have not accepted the agreements of 2008 with the workers. They

are instead insisting that they don't have money to make payment for the workers being asked to leave their jobs,” the Union alleged.

They said that the removal of workers has been stayed by the court till Nov 19.

“700 workers were already removed from their jobs. Future of 600 more workers, who are still working with the company, is hanging in balance, since they would be removed any time without payment of their dues,” they further alleged.

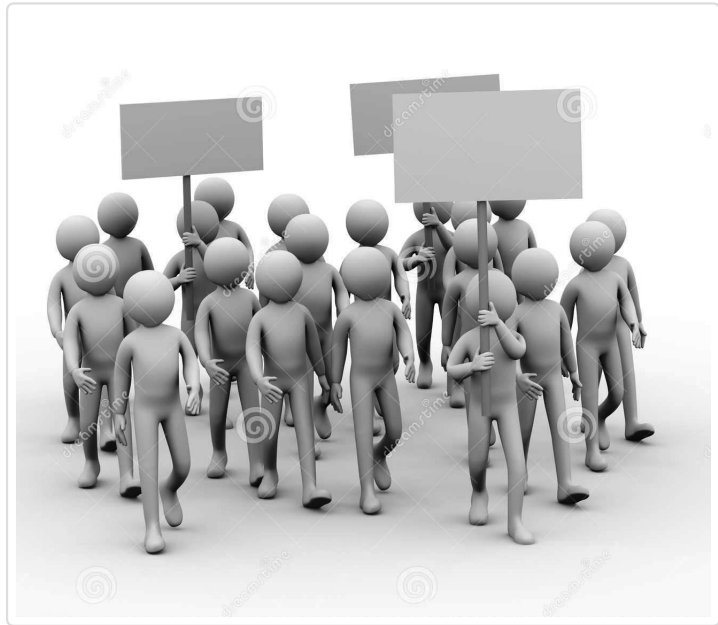
They said that around 107 workers, staff members including engineers have also joined 3000 protesting workers against the company management for not paying their dues, as per the agreements. They said that the management has send a hundred workers on forced leave.

“They have implemented the agreement (of 2008) in 2014 that too when some employees retired but now they don't want to give benefits which were promised by them (workers),” alleged the union members.

According to Javed Ahmed Zargar, president of CHPWU, the Mufti Government has failed to give any heed to the workers who have worked in the construction of the prestigious hydro project.

“around 300 to 400 workers have lost their lives during the construction of two phases of the project. Their families were not given any compensation by the authorities, while government also turned blind eye towards the issue,” said Zargar.

when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second phase of project of Baglihar, he claimed, the police with the help of authorities detained some employee leaders and workers in the company mess for hours together.



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“We constructed the stage for PM, arranged electricity, sitting area, toilets and other facilities were provided by the workers under the supervision of SPDC, but later, these workers were kept under the lock like a slave,” said Zargar.

Notably, PM Modi inaugurated second stage of 450 MW Baglihar Hydro Power Project, following which total installed power generation capacity has reached to 900 Megawatts (Built on Chenab River).

Earlier, the 450 MW project under stage first was commissioned in 2008.