

Contract, outsourced workers seek a fair deal



• [G.V. Prasada Sarma](#)

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With a wide disparity in salaries in spite of rendering the same service as regular employees, contract and outsourced employees are seeking a fair deal.

They number over three lakh working in as many as 87 departments of the State. Over 30,000 work in the district and 8,000 in the city.

The disparity can be gauged from the salaries they get. In the Medical and Health Department, an ANM on contract with 11 years of service gets Rs.16,000 whereas a regular employee gets Rs.40,000.

More than 60 per cent of the workers in the Medical and Health Department, including in ESI Hospital at Malkapuram and Government ENT Hospital here, are either on contract or outsourced. All the staff working on computers in various departments and in the GVMC as data entry operators are outsourced, says convener of Contract and Outsourced Workers City Federation S. Indivara.

During the past five years, not even a single rupee of pay hike has been given to these workers while permanent employees got an increase of 110 per cent.

“We are demanding that as per the earlier practice of issuing orders based on PRC scales, a Government Order should be issued on payment of basic as minimum wages in that category and DA increase should also be made applicable,” she says.

These workers are also denied maternity leave and if they take it they stand to lose their job, she points out. The TDP has promised that the services of contract and outsourced employees will be regularised. The report of a Cabinet Sub-Committee formed on the issue is still awaited.

The wages of a counsellor working in the AP State AIDS Control Society rose from Rs.6,500 to Rs.13,000 since 2005. “It’s the same for people working in rural and Agency areas and the city. No city allowance and HRA is paid,” the counsellor says pointing out the difficulties of living with a meagre salary in a city like Visakhapatnam.

All over the State around 1,300 work as counsellors, lab technicians, pharmacists and medicine dispensers at ART Centres.

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