

Cabinet to decide on release of 48 garment workers

- Special Correspondent

A decision on releasing 48 garment employees, who were arrested during the two-day protest against the new provident fund rules last month, will be taken at the State Cabinet meeting scheduled next week.

Addressing presspersons here on Friday, Minister of State for Labour P.T. Parameshwar Naik said the State police had arrested garment workers during protests that triggered violent incidents at different places in the city. The police have been investigating the role of the employees in the protest. Those who are innocent and had no role in the violence will be released, he said.

The garment workers have been languishing in jail since the protest on April 18 and 19. Many of those arrested, especially on the second day, were unable to get bail as they were not only booked for rioting, but also for a more severe non-bailable offence of attempt to murder. This had come under severe criticism from human rights activists and trade unions.

When asked about minimum wages for contract workers, Mr. Naik said it has been increased to Rs. 10,000 per month by the Centre. The State government would implement it. The Centre hiked the wages based on the Supreme Court direction, he added.

Spoken English

All government industrial training institutes would teach spoken English to ITI students from the 2016-17 academic year. This would enable students to communicate ideas in English at job interviews. An hour a day would be devoted for the classes in all institutes, Mr. Naik said.

A total of 3,04,000 construction workers were registered under the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Board during 2007-14.

They were arrested during the two-day protest against the new provident fund rules last month

