

TODAY'S PAPER

## Andhra workers stranded in Muscat

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Another construction company in Oman has turned bankrupt evading the wages to 300-odd Indian workers most of them belonging to the two Telugu-speaking States.

Some of the workers hailing from Srikakulam district, stranded for the past four months, alleged that the management of Petron, a construction firm, had stopped paying them wages. The relatives are having an agonising wait and are able to get calls only on WhatsApp as the stranded workers have no cash left with them.

“My father who went to Muscat two years ago, who has been employed in Petron with a monthly remuneration of about Rs. 25,000 as a rigger. Though the management is taking care of food, it is not coming forward to disburse the pending wages. The food served to them is of very poor quality,” Venkat Raju, son of D. Anjaneyulu, who works in the construction firm, told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

Mr. Raju said several workers with over 10 years experience were not able to come back as their passports were in the possession of the management of the firm.

“After a lot of persuasion, the management had agreed to arrange flight tickets to India but it was non-committal on payment of the outstanding wages. The management owed huge amounts to senior workers who had put up several years of experience in construction activity of skyscrapers, roads, flyovers and industrial workshops.”

Meanwhile, relatives of some of the workers are planning to send an SoS to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to ensure return of the workers along with their back wages.

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