

Strike shadow on sector transfer

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Gurgaon: In what is being seen as a last ditch effort to stop the transfer of Huda sectors (and employees) to Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon, Huda employees, who have been protesting the move for over a month, have declared they are going to sit on indefinite chain hunger strike from Tuesday.

Half of Huda's developed sectors, located on the right side of NH-8 (towards Jaipur), are scheduled to be handed over to MCG on April 30. The remaining sectors, on the left side of the expressway, are scheduled for transfer on May 15. Along with the sector transfer, employees of Huda currently engaged in maintenance of water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage, streetlights, roads, horticulture and sanitation in these sectors,

are also scheduled to be transferred to MCG.

Sceptical Huda employees have been protesting the move since the announcement, fearful they won't get pension which they are guaranteed under Huda, as MCG has no such provision. Some are also apprehensive of their seniority and promotion prospects after the transfer, while there are others who fear losing the use of government accommodation. While Huda has quarters for all its employees, MCG has none, having made no use of the land they were allotted to build staff quarters.

Much of their fear stems from the belief that MCG is poorly managed.

Huda employees, who have been protesting since March 21, took out a rally on Monday from the Sector 14 Huda office to the

office of the deputy commissioner at the Mini Secretariat, opposing the imminent transfer. "From tomorrow, we'll sit on indefinite chain hunger strike," said Huda Employees Ekta Union president Yaduvir Singh. "Around 600 employees, posted in different departments, will be affected by the decision," said Huda Employees Union president Vanwarilal Saini, adding that staff who are being transferred to MCG can instead be absorbed by Huda, by replacing contractual employees.

Sadhu Ram, one of the protestors, said their biggest concern is post-retirement pension. "Huda employees get pension, but MCG has no provision for that. What will happen to employees after the transfer?" he asked, adding that out of the 600 affected employees, 125 are scheduled to retire by next year, and may end up without pension. He said Huda employees currently working in different sectors should be transferred to parks, or sewage and water treatment plants, instead of being sent over to MCG. "We've sent our report, mentioning the concerns of the employees, to the state government, as the transfer decision is theirs and they have to take call," said Huda administrator Hardeep Singh, adding Huda will otherwise go ahead with the handover of sectors as per departmental directions.