

Business Standard

16 lakh UP government employees go on three-day strike

It is likely to cripple working of major departments such as education, horticulture, health, public works etc

IANS | Lucknow August 10, 2016 Last Updated at 14:05 IST



Rejecting an official offer to study their demands, over 16,00,000 employees of the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government began a three-day strike on Wednesday.

The strike has been called by the State Employees Joint Council and Uttar Pradesh Secondary Teachers Federation and is supported by more than 250 employees and teachers organisations.

The strike is likely to cripple working of major departments like education, horticulture, health, public works, social welfare, food and civil supplies.

The main demands of the striking employees include cashless medical facility, house rent allowance at par with central government employees and declaring aanganwadi workers, cooks, MNREGA workers and computer operators as government employees.

Work came to a halt at two major office hubs of the government — Jawahar Bhawan and Indira Bhawan, which house hundreds of offices here.

A last ditch effort was made by Chief Secretary Deepak Singhal on Tuesday night to resolve the dispute but the employees decided to go ahead with the strike.

Hari Kishore Tiwari, the strike leader, told *IANS* that the Akhilesh Yadav government had failed to stick to its promises on heeding their long-pending demands.

The employees went on a flash strike on July 23, 2015 but were assured their demands would be met with after the chief minister returned from his foreign tour. This never happened, striking employees say.

On July 13 this year, when the employees gheraoed the Chief Minister's office, they were told that two of their main demands would be taken up by the cabinet but this too never happened, said Tiwari.