

J-K govt threatens to stop salaries of absentee employees

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Rubble thrown by protestors litter a deserted street in Srinagar as security forces enforce a curfew in Kashmir. All government offices have witnessed thin attendance since July 8 after the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani. (REUTERS)

The Jammu and Kashmir government has read out the riot act to its employees warning them that it would stop their salaries from this month (August) if they do not attend office.

The divisional commissioner in an order on Wednesday directed heads of departments not to pay salaries to those employees who play truant.

According to the order, the decision was taken after reviewing the attendance of employees for month of July.

Asking for strict compliance, the divisional commissioner has warned “any deviation from the order will be viewed seriously and recovery would be made from personal account of the erring officer”.

All government offices have witnessed thin attendance since July 8 after the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani. Authorities had earlier asked all employees to report for duty saying identity cards would be considered as curfew passes.

However, government employees have either not complied with the earlier government directive or have not been able to comply largely because most transport is off the roads and security forces do not consider identity cards as curfew passes.

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The separatist leadership on the other hand have also asked employees except those in essential services like hospitals, not attend offices.

Attendance data of August 16 accessed by a local newspaper Kashmir Reader shows that Srinagar district has shown the lowest attendance in the Valley in government offices. Of the 50 government departments in Srinagar, more than 20 have registered below 30% attendance. The higher education department has registered just 10% attendance while the handicrafts department, the electric division (2nd) and the irrigation department have witnessed 0%, 33%, and 22% attendance, respectively.

In south Kashmir's Pulwama and Kulgam districts, the attendance in the education department was 7% and 51% respectively.

In north Kashmir's Kupwara and Baramulla districts, employee attendance in private schools was 20% and 52% in government schools.

According to the attendance data, out of 2600 employees, only 400 attended their duties in the civil secretariat.

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