

ASHA workers stage flash protest

- Special Correspondent



ASHA workers staging a dharna in front of Khammam bus depot on Friday.- PHOTO: G.N. RAO

They have been on an indefinite strike since September 2

The ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers staged a flash protest across the State on Friday by staging dharnas in front of RTC bus depots and rasta roko at other places.

The health workers are on an indefinite strike from September 2 demanding job security, increase in their salary to Rs.15,000 per month, regularising their service and extension of other benefits in tune with the labour laws.

Their protests delayed departure of buses from several depots by a couple of hours.

According to reports reaching here, they reached the RTC bus depots along with the activists of the Centre for India Trade Unions (CITU), the trade union wing of CPI (M), in the wee hours and squatted across the entrances raising slogans in support of their demands, holding placards and banners.

Police arrested the striking ASHA workers at several places in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Khammam and Mahabubnagar districts. The buses started leaving depots for bus stations for their plying in their designated routes once the protestors were arrested by the police.

The protests planned on the 73rd day of their strike were held including at bus depots at Kushaiguda in Hyderabad; Miryalguda, Narketpalli, Suryapet and Kodad in Nalgonda, Tandur and Vikarabad in Ranga Reddy; Bhadrachalam in Khammam, Godavarikhani and Huzurabad in Karimnagar and at Adilabad.