

‘If anybody got injured due to any accident while working under the ‘Employment assurance scheme’, free medical aid should be provided.’

‘In the case if the injured person has to be admitted in the hospital, 50% of the wages should be paid in addition to the hospital expenditure which includes treatment and medical bill.’

...These are the 24th and 25th regulations in the national rural employment assurance law. But none of the workers in Manchala mandal of Ranga Reddy District have gained these facilities. Due to this the families of injured persons have lost hundreds of their job days. Also taken loans for more interests.

“First day I dug a pit. I was about to dig second pit. I was injured due to crowbar. Doctor came to my house. The Doctor has given an injection and prescribed some medicine. I was unable to go for work for a week. I borrowed Rs.15,000/-. I am paying intrest. Principal is as it is. My husband’s health is also not good. As he cannot work with crowbar he is selling fruits. But there is no profit in that business. What can we do?” this is the question raised by Kandukuri Andallu. She is a resident of Kagazghat which comes under Augapalli Panchayat. Yadaiah, field assistant of Augapalli tried to get her medical bill. He has Submitted the application attested by the signature of the Village Secretary to the Programe Officer(P.O). P.O. has told “aid will be provided. First bring the prescription given by the Doctor.” In this scenario yadaiah again met P.O and submitted with the prescriptions those he has collected from Andallu. This time P.O. has talked in another way. He asked to bring medical certificates from Government Hospital. As andallu was not admitted in the Government Hospital, there they have rejected to issue the medical certificate. So P.O. said “aid will not be provided to her.”

The trouble caused by the wound of Andallu was not only affected herself, but also her husband Vishnu had kept away his fruit selling business for a week to take her wife to the hospital. Their daughter also didn’t attend the work for a week. So she lost five hundred rupees of her daily wages. Andallu was also lost her 25 working days due to wound. This means due to the only injury of Andallu, the whole family has lost 39 job days.

Several female workers in Manchala Mandal who have worked under ‘Employment Assurance’ scheme have faced the same bitter experience like Andallu. In this mandal there are 18 Panchayats. It was known that in an investigation on 14 panchayats, 20 people got injured in 12 panchayats out of 14. in those 20 people 14 members were ladies.

Lachimi belonging to loyapalli village didn't inform the authorities about her injury even though she was having all medial reports. She conveyed "we are not getting money even the days which we have worked. We didn't receive our wages for the last 6 months. If this is the scene how can we get reimbursement for injuries? When she was working under a construction work her foot got seriously injured due to crowbar. She said 'I have spent two thousand rupees for the wound, also I spent around three thousand rupees for medicine.' She was not able to go to the job even after seven months from the day of injury. Her husband was innocently showing the X-Ray of lachimi's foot, which has been taken from Santosh Nagar in Hyderabad and asking what evidence is needed rather this to show lachimi has been injured?

Mandula Yasoda belonging to Dadapalli was also seriously injured just like lachimi. She was hospitalized for three days as her foot was swelling as got injured by crowbar. She lost her job for 3 months as it has taken 3 months for her to recover. She even didn't obtain her 50% of her wages or medical aid for the period during which she has been hospitalized. She has personally met MDO Madam. But her P.O. has told that aid will not be given without having the medical bill. Madaiah field assistant of dadpalli said "the crowbar was slipped as it is hit by a stone. It pierced into yashoda's foot. There is nothing mistake with her. She not even got her medical bill and also scolded by her husband."

Hansamma is saying "here water is not available. If it rains then only work will be there. These jobs are good. Last year this much of chances are not there. Even if we get chance to do work we were getting twenty five rupees or thirty five rupees per day." She desired to work for whole 75 days if she didn't get injured. But due to her injury she was unable to utilize her job days.

Many of the injured people took loans for four rupees loan interest for the purpose of their medical treatment. They were telling that they cannot get their loans for not less than this much interest. They are also told that if we want to approach P.O. we have to spend additional amount and we have to take more loans. One side daily needs and the other side the loans are throwing these workers away from peace and rest. Ramulamma belonging to Japala is attending the work in agricultural fields, though her leg is swollen.

The situation is not only confined to manchala mandal. Mr. Jagan the District Secretary of Agricultural Workers Union of Rangaraddy District conveyed that no where in the district the injured workers have gained the medical aid. Mr. Sanjeeva, the president of State Field Assistants Union has told that the situation in the entire state does not differ from this. In this connection he has illustrated the situation of Naveepeta Mandal in Nizamabad district, where he is living. He explained "In this Mandal about 40 people were injured. Mostly ladies met with accidents. If they took treatment in Government health centre then only they will obtain their medical bill. Doctors are not available in health centers. Atleast first aid boxes are not provided at work places." According to these details conveyed by him, in the village Rajampeta in

Bikkanur Mandal of Nizamabad district a worker died while digging pits. His family has not yet received any exgratia. Narsing, the field assistant said that the situation not much fair in Adilabad district which has been elected as one of the four districts in which the Employment Assurance scheme has been successfully implemented in the country. According to the details given by him the injured people in the west mandals of Adilabad district have not got medical aid. In Manchala Mandal, to the maximum extent majority workers are ladies. The maximum number of people who got injured also ladies. P.O. ,Suribabu said **"There is no restriction that these injured people will get medical only if they took treatment in Government Hospital. The victims are absconding after they have been asked to submit the medical bills."** In this connection no one had got their medical bill. Also they didn't receive the half of the daily wages. But the field assistants, Mr. Yadayya (Agapalli village)and Mr. Srikanth(Arutla village) said that medical bills of some of the victims and letters of village secretaries have been handed over to P.O.. The law is saying that there should be one third ladies among the people who are getting benefits through Employment Assurance Scheme. In reality this proportion is very high in manchala mandal. This is the boon for the female workers in the villages. Koppu Balamma, a member of Japala Village Panchayat is telling, " myself and my son worked for 12 days. We earned 1700 rupees. We can't earn more than 30 rupees per day if we go for other works on the basis of daily wages.

Yadamma, a lady belonging to Rangapur of Parigi Mandal is narrating her life which has been brighten by the Employment Assurance Scheme. "Previously I was taking loans from farmers. I was working in their fields to pay back the loans. I was getting 25 rupees daily, if I work from morning till evening. But now I am earning 80 rupees." Yes it is true. With the help of Employment Scheme, Lakhs of ladies like bamma and yadamma are getting the job just as their right. They are able to have their food satisfactorily. At the same time they are helping in the development of production in the society.

In villagers, there are spacious waste lands. Removing thorny bushes, leveling the lands, making it useful for cultivation, clearing the blockages in the water resources, taking necessary actions required for strengthening the soil..... all these are essential. The wealth will be showered from all the natural resources in our country if the hard work of labour is united. Actually the objective of Employment Assurance Scheme is to provide the employment to the workers in the villages, and there by enhancing the production in the society. For achieving that goal the authorities should implement that scheme with sincere effort. The labour, who are the life for the scheme should obtain the benefits which are to be obtained legally. Instead of avoiding giving free medical aid, by showing silly technical causes, they can know the realities through proper enquiry. They can create proper awareness regarding this. This is not at all excusable, making the village poor insecure financially, instead of providing them the job security.

LENT MY NECKLACE

Situation is more painic in the places where ladies in the family are the source of income. Ramulamma of japala mandal is the only source of income for her family. Her leg had a swelling as the slipped. She was unable to walk for two to three months. She says, "I borrowed two thousand rupees by lending my Necklace. Medicine and tonics costed me three thousand rupees. Still there is no relief from the pain. I am unable to sleep. It starts swelling if I do any work." She explained this to village secretary Mr.Ravinder, field assistant of that village. She handed over the letter given by the village secretary along with the doctors certificate to the P.O.. There is no result. This is the same situation for sixty years old Alwala Yadamma Belonging to Arutla Village. She is the only source of income in her family. On her very first day of work crowbar pearced into her leg. Hospital charged her six hundred rupees for treatment. She borrowed eight hundred rupees for food and medicine. Aluwlu Hansamma, Erpula Yadamma and Anita, who belongs to the same village were also injured with crowbar. Potla Mallamma, mother of Anita says, "Leg has severe swelling. My daughter was ubable to walk for one month. The total cost for mediciner and food had come to thousand rupees." Mallamma's hand got dislocated when she slipped out of a tractor in the past. She dig the land with her other hand to plant trees. In this situation her daughter Anita who is studying in B.Sc second year, thought to help her mother by going to work, by that atleast she could meet her college expenses. Now she too got injured.

Medical certificates belonging to few injured ladies along with the covering letters from their village secretaries were submitted to the P.O.. No one had received their medical expenses till now. Yadaiah and few other relatives of victims express that "P.O. says that they will give the medical bill only if they get treatment from government hospital. Village belonging to Arutla says that they don't have a doctor for six months in the government hospital in their village (Arutla the biggest village in that mandal has a population of approximately 13,000). We don't have government dispensary. We have to travel 30 kilo metres to ibrahimpatnam and get the treatment there. There is no regular bus services to this village. We will not get help even if we die in our way. It costs hundreds of rupees if we book a jeep."- explained Lakshmi belonging to loyapalli. How much they have to suffer to go to Government hospital. She borrowed 5000 rupees for the purpose of treatment for her son Mr.Srikanth who was studying in a college, as a crowbar pierced into his leg. He lost his job for 4 month. Also he missed his studies. Lakshmi said, "no one said that bills are required. We don't know thjat we have to preserve them. They are lying somewhere in our hut.