Second time this year, Noida farmers protest against NTPC for equal compensation, jobs

Led by the Bhartiya Kisan Parishad (BKP), farmers have been protesting in front of the NTPC office in Sector 24 since 2 am Monday.
Their demands for compensation and jobs yet to materialise, farmers of 24 villages in Greater Noida are protesting yet again against the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) over the land it acquired from them in the 1980s to set up a power project in Dadri. They protested over the issue in March as well.

Led by the Bhartiya Kisan Parishad (BKP), farmers have been protesting in front of the NTPC office in Sector 24 since 2 am Monday.

Farmer leader Sukhbir Khalifa said they want uniform compensation for all families: “It is our right to get proper education, employment and medical facilities. We gave you (NTPC) our land, now we want assurance for our well-being. Earlier, we protested for three months at NTPC Dadri, but they did not listen to us. A committee comprising members of the district administration and NTPC was formed and minutes of the meeting was circulated among members, stating that the committee accepted that our demand is reasonable. The company took the land from around 2,200 families, they promised to provide jobs to all, but only 182 got jobs... Along with this, there should be a one-time settlement with other families regarding compensation.”
He further said, “The committee also said uniform compensation should be given to all as it was unequally distributed. As the NTPC refused to sign, we are protesting and will not leave until our demands are met.”

Rajendra, a BKP member participating in the protest, said: “This is probably the first time that hundreds of farmers are protesting at the NTPC head office, we have no option. Even 40 years after the acquisition, neither did we get compensation, jobs, or medical facilities. At that time, farmers were unaware of their rights…”

Responding to the farmers’ claims, an NTPC spokesperson said land acquisition was done and compensation given as per the relevant Land Acquisition Act and directions of the district administration at that time.
completed between 1986 and 1995. After so many years, protests are being held over some demands. During various talks with protestors from time to time, the NCPS has said it is no longer possible to consider equal compensation and employment,” said NTPC.

The spokesperson said 182 land oustees were given regular employment based on available vacancies.

NTPC also said work on developing sports grounds in Khangoda and Sidhpur villages is in progress. It said they are set to initiate action based on the administration’s instructions on the feasibility report concerning the demand of villagers for the operation and maintenance of a hospital and degree college.

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First published on: 19-12-2023 at 05:14 IST

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