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Death of Dalit farmer sparks off protest

Special Correspondent

Doddamani allegedly beaten up at Chellegeri village in Aland taluk

Protesters want sub-inspector to be suspended for delay in registering a complaint

They refused to remove the body of the deceased farmer till demands were met



Upset: Activists of Dalit organisations staging a protest in Gulbarga on Monday.

Gulbarga: Tension prevailed in the Mini Vikasa Soudha complex for over two hours on Monday when the members of the Dalit Sena, Dalit Yuva Samanvaya Samiti and other Dalit organisations staged a dharna.

The protesters placed the body of Husnappa Lakkappa Doddamani (70), a Dalit farmer, on the steps of the Mini Vikasa Soudha and said that the body would not be removed till their demands were met.

The protesting activists said that Doddamani died in Government General Hospital in Gulbarga after allegedly being beaten by 'caste' Hindus at Challegeri village in Aland taluk of Gulbarga district on Sunday. They demanded arrest of persons who had allegedly beaten Doddamani, suspension of the sub-inspector of Madanahipparga police station who allegedly delayed registering the case and shifting the severely injured Doddamani to the Government Hospital in Gulbarga. Besides, the protesters urged the Government to provide compensation to the family of the victim. Besides the activists, grieving family members of Doddamani were present at the venue of the protest. Deputy Commissioner R. Vishal held a meeting with State vice-president of the Dalit Sena Hanmanth Yalsangi and Dalit leader D.V. Chakravarti immediately after the protesters reached the Mini Vikasa Soudha. Mr. Vishal told the protesters that efforts were being made to arrest the accused in the case and Superintendent of Police B.A. Padmanayan had promised to initiate disciplinary action against the sub-inspector

of the Madanahipparga police station for alleged dereliction of duties. The Dalit leaders maintained that they would remove the body from the venue of the protest only after their demand for providing compensation to the victim's family was met. However, Mr. Vishal told the Dalit leaders that the compensation due to the victim's family as per the provisions in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act would be paid and as far as their other demand for compensatory employment to one of the family members of the deceased farmer was concerned, the State Government would have to take a final decision.

It took two hours for Mr. Vishal to persuade the Dalit leaders to relent.

Later, they took the body to Chalageri village in Aland taluk.

According to a case registered in the Madanahipparga police station, the deceased farmer who was tilling the lands owned by one Chennabasappa Ramanagowda Patil on lease for the past 20 years, was beaten up by a gang led by Shrimant Maligi, Dharmaraya and others belonging to Madhugunuki village in Aland taluk. Deceased farmer's wife Parvathi, daughter Neelamma, granddaughter Jyothi, grandson Ashok and son Sharanappa were also beaten up by the gang in Chalageri village.

The attackers who had a dispute with the owner of the land Chennabasappa Patil picked a quarrel with Doddamani and his family demanding the harvested red gram from the land.

The police have registered cases under Sections 302, 307 of IPC and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against 14 persons. No arrests have been made.

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