

Dated: 02. 01. 2018

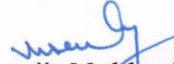
Enclosed is the news clipping appeared in the 'Statesman', an English daily dated 01.01.2018, the news item is captioned " Group D employees play doc. Advise patients for tests"

Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of West Bengal is directed to furnish a report by 8th February, 2018.



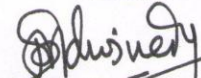
(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)

Chairperson



(Napanarajit Mukherjee)

Member



(M.S. Dwivedy)

Member

Group D employees play doc, advise patients for tests

They used to charge ₹ 500 for CT scan though such tests are done free of cost at govt hospitals

SUBHENDU MAITI
KOLKATA, 31 DECEMBER

A section of Group D employees is running brisk business advising patients to go for CT scan examinations and other pathological tests in the state-run Uluberia Sub-divisional Hospital, in Shibpur of Howrah town. These Group D employees are contractual workers earning a daily wage of Rs 50 only.

Documents in the possession of The Statesman have revealed this gross irregularity, which places the lives of the patients, who mostly belong to poorer families, at risk.

This past week, at least

two patients, Kutubuddin Khan (45) and Shiekh Abdul Mujid were advised by Group D staff to go for CT scans by Group D staff who posed as doctors. The outdoor patient cards issued by the hospital on 26 December for the two patients bear fake signatures, along with the registration numbers of real doctors.

With their advice many patients get their CT scan and other radiological tests done in the hospital's radiology unit.

The Group D staff take "fees" of around Rs 500 per case for a CT scan though all kinds of treatment including radiological and pathological tests in government hospitals are

supposed to be done free of costs.

Admitting that this is happening, Dr Sudip Kanrar, superintendent of the hospital, said the hospital authorities are taking action against those involved.

"We have taken prompt action soon after we received two such OPD tickets where the Group D staff have advised for CT scan tests for patients. They have given fake signatures with false registration numbers of doctors in the tickets. We have sacked them and alerted all the hospital staff in this regard through Whatsapp message," Dr Kanrar said.

Sources in the hospital

said that these group D people are also fleecing patients by sending them to nearby private diagnostic centres for blood tests, USG and other investigations.

"They are virtually forced by the government into such illegal practices because of the irregular payment of their daily wages. How can a government pay such a paltry amount of Rs 50 daily to a contractual worker? It goes against the labour laws as well human rights norms," a senior doctor of the hospital asked.

The hospital is running badly short of human resources strength, mainly group D people, nurses, doctors and tech-

nicians. "For instance, we need minimum 150 group D staff like sweepers, general duty attendants (GDA) etc. But we have hardly 30 Group D staff here in this hospital which serves mainly poor patients from different parts of Howrah and Hooghly. And is it possible to run this hospital with 500 indoor patients depending on just 30 Group D staff?" the doctor, who requested anonymity, further asked.

"In order to make up the huge shortfall of these vital workforce in the hospital the health department decided to engage unemployed people on daily wage basis," a senior administrative officer of the hospital said.