


1,800 vacancies reported to Kerala PSC

POSITIVE RESPONSE	
Cabinet directive on May 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Apprise PSC of vacancies in 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 700 vacancies of assistants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Remaining vacancies reported at district offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reported at head office itself
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vacancies may go up in the coming days▪ Graft in temporary appointments to be exposed	

The vacancy reporting drive initiated by the Cabinet seems to have yielded a positive outcome. Heads of government departments and public sector undertakings are learnt to have reported about 1,800 vacancies to the Public Service Commission (PSC) in line with the Cabinet direction on May 25 to identify vacancies and apprise the commission within 10 days.

Commission sources told *The Hindu* here that about 700 vacancies of assistants in various departments had been reported at the head office itself and the remaining vacancies in different posts had been reported at the district offices during the period.

Lift the freeze

The Cabinet had announced its decision to lift the freeze on recruitment and also expedite the vacancy reporting process. Earlier, circulars and directives issued by the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department warning stringent action against the appointing authorities for failing to abide by the directives had not yielded any palpable result. Since a monitoring system was in place for evaluating the vacancy reporting from time to time, the number of vacancies was likely to go up in the coming days, sources said.

This would also eventually force the government to take action against those who had been appointed in various departments, universities, local governments, autonomous bodies, and PSUs as temporary or casual employees and had been serving for a long time on different premises.

In violation of rules, the vacancy identification process would eventually force the department heads to furnish the details of posts manned by such employees very soon.

This would also expose the alleged graft behind such appointments. The previous government had declared a scheme for enhancing the salary of such employees who had served the government for a fixed tenure. Since such schemes were no more in vogue, the government would have to seriously think of easing out such employees and fill the vacancies with candidates advised by the commission, sources said.

Abide by rules

Heads of departments and appointing authorities would have to strictly abide by the rules that all vacancies with a duration of six months and above should invariably be reported to the commission. As per rules, when there is a ranked list, vacancies should be filled up only by the candidates from the rank list. Such rules were observed more in the breach so far, sources said.