

ICAR asks agri varsities to fill up vacant posts

Nagpur: In order to press the Maharashtra government for filling vacant posts in all the four state agriculture universities (SAUs), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) held a review meeting with vice-chancellors (VCs) of the universities on Friday at Delhi. The ICAR asked the SAUs to submit the action taken report at the earliest so that it could be presented to the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB) for renewal of their accreditation which has been put on hold since May this year.

G Venkateshwarlu, assistant director general (agriculture education division), ICAR, who had called the meeting told TOI that all the four SAUs have responded to the notice issued on May 5, 2016, withholding their accreditation and initiated steps for filling the vacant posts. "Though only two VCs were present at the meeting, they submitted information regarding the steps the four universities have taken after the notice. ICAR expects that by September first week, when the board meets on the subject, the universities will manage to submit satisfactory action taken report," he said.

It is learnt, the ICAR has told the Maharashtra Council of Agriculture Research and Education (MCAER) to expedite the process of filling the posts MCAER is responsible for filling the post of professor and above in the SAUs. The MCAER is planning a strategy to convince the state government about the importance of NAEAB accreditation and minimizing restrictions on recruitments. "MCAER has already held meetings with the registrars of Parbhani and Rahuri universities. But their rosters are not cleared. Both these universities have also been told by the government to restrict their salary expenditure. The rosters of Akola and Dapoli universities are clear and they also have initiated the process for filling posts. Yet, unless state lifts the restrictions on recruitment, all posts can't be filled and the universities may not get NAEAB accreditation," said a MCAER official.

B Venkateshwarlu, VC of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV) in Parbhani told TOI that it was difficult to get qualified persons for posts of associate professors (APS). The university had advertised for about 15% of the 45 sanctioned posts but got just 18 applications. "But the ICAR wants action. It wants universities to concentrate on its job of filling posts and improving education standard and not spend most of its time on administration of private colleges as is

the current situation. The onus of filling posts is now on the universities," he said.

Kannalli Viswanatha, VC of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (MPKV) in Rahuri said his university was severely affected by the ban on promotion and recruitments due to irregularities committed by the earlier university administrators. "The ban was lifted just 10-12 days back. Our roster is not approved. University had started the promotion process but recruitment would take another 4-5 months," he said.