

Regularization of TET teachers anomalous, alleges CCTOA

Coordination committee of tribal organizations opposes handing over of State oilfields to private parties, Centre's new forest policy

The Coordination Committee of the Tribal Organizations of Assam (CCTOA) has raised its demand for immediate appointment to all SC and ST candidates who have qualified the TET, without any precondition or through a special employment scheme. The organization has also raised its voice against the move to hand over 12 oilfields of Assam to private companies through open bidding.

The CCTOA held its emergency meeting earlier in the day. Soon after the meeting, CCTOA chief coordinator Aditya Khakhlary and coordinator Promod Boro addressed the press. They said: "We have a detailed discussion on the appointment of as many as 7234 TET teachers against permanent vacancies yesterday. We have found that the appointment process is not free from anomalies. The advertisement published for the regularization of these posts didn't mention the number of SC/ST posts vacant in each and every district in the State. No reservation has been followed for Scheduled Tribe candidates in Tinsukia, Goalpara and Bongaigaon districts. Likewise, in Nagaon district no reservation has been followed for Scheduled Caste candidates. If these districts have more ST/SC TET teachers, as the case may be, the department should make it clear. This apart, candidates belonging to Hajong and Garo communities have been included among ST(P) list, and candidates belonging to minorities have been included in the list of ST(H) in Goalpara district. This apart, candidates with better marks in D.El.Ed and HS examinations have also failed to make it to the final list of candidates."

The duo said: "In 2012 when teachers had been appointed through TET for the first time, 1,155 ST (H) and 1,353 ST (P) posts were opened for general candidates on the pretext of lack of ST candidates. In 2014, a special TET was conducted for ST and SC candidates. As many as 9,384 candidates came out successful in the test. However, they have not been appointed as yet. Today's meeting raised the demand for appointment of all SC/ST TET qualified candidates without any precondition, if need be, through a special appointment scheme."

Khakhlari and Boro also opposed the Centre's decision to hand over as many as 12 oilfields of the State to private companies. "We've decided to take our next course of action only after holding talks with other

organizations of the State,” they said, and added: “Taking the advantage of National Forest Policy (Draft), 2016, the Centre has hatched a conspiracy to deprive the indigenous tribes of the State of their rights over forest through the cancellation of the age-old Bonobasi (Bon Adhikar Swikriti) Act, 2006. We demand the Centre of following the benchmark set by the UNO in enacting any forest policy in the country in future.”