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Lalu said the appointment of 9,000 Assistant professors by BSUSC

Patna: RJD chief Lalu Prasad on Sunday demanded 27% reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) in appointment of vice-chancellors in central and state universities across the country.

Till date, there is no provision of quota either for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes or OBCs in the appointment of VCs in central or state universities. The VCs for central universities are appointed by the President on the Union government's advice. In the state universities, the governor-cum-chancellor makes the appointments on the advice of the respective state government.

"The Centre should fix OBC quota for VCs as per the Mandal Commission formula," Lalu told reporters.

He also demanded appointment of primary schoolteachers in Bihar through open competition. "The government should scrap the existing provision of teacher eligibility test (TET) because it consumes much time. Instead, it should opt for open competition, preferably through the Bihar State Staff Selection Commission," Lalu said.

"Thousands of teachers' aspirants are running here and there despite qualifying the TET. Once the appointment is made through open competition, there would be transparency and quality in the appointments," Lalu said, adding that state's education minister Ashok Choudhary met him last night and he advised Choudhary to conduct open competition for teachers' selection. Lalu also recalled as to how he, during his chief ministership in 1995, had ensured quality in appointment of 25,000 primary teachers through an open competition.

To a query, the RJD chief favoured the state government's move to appoint 9,000 assistant professors in the state universities through Bihar State University Service Commission (BSUSC) (which is yet to be constituted), instead of the Bihar Service Public Commission which was conducting interviews for appointment of college teachers till last month.

Lalu said, "BPSC ekdum bekaar hai (The BPSC is worthless)." He said the appointment of 9,000 assistant professors would be done by the university service commission.