

## **The Times of India**

### **Teachers' appointment stirs up a hornet's nest**

Patna: Will the faculty-starved colleges and universities of the state get new teachers in near future to ensure smooth conduct of teaching and research activities? With the ever-changing policy of the state government on recruitment of teachers, it seems a remote possibility. The recent move of the state government to delink the appointment of assistant professors (lecturers) from the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) and constitute an independent state-level panel on the pattern of the erstwhile Bihar State University (Constituent Colleges) Service Commission reminds one of the famous "Delhi to Daulatabad" story. The responsibility for the recruitment of college and university teachers in the state goes on shifting from one body to the other, telling upon the credibility of the appointment process.

Initially, the BPSC used to appoint all categories of teachers in constituent colleges and post-graduate departments of different universities in the state and the Bihar College Service Commission used to appoint teachers in affiliated colleges. But, gradually, the BPSC became overloaded with the job of recruitment, especially after large-scale conversion of affiliated colleges into constituent units in 1975 and 1980 and, hence, the entire process of appointment used to get delayed.

Ultimately, the job of appointment of teachers of constituent colleges and post-graduate departments was delinked from the BPSC and separate university selection committees were constituted in all the universities in November 1980 to expedite teachers' appointment. A large number of appointments were made by the newly constituted selection committees in all the universities of the state, but owing to some allegations of irregularities in appointments in one or two universities, the university selection committees were scrapped in February, 1982.

Then, in 1985, the task of teachers' appointment was handed over to the BPSC through an ordinance with a new provision of holding a written test. However, the BPSC could do very little till 1990 when, through a new Act, a state-level university service commission came into being. This commission started appointing teachers after holding state-level eligibility test (BET) in addition to the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by the UGC.

Large-scale appointment of lecturers was made by the commission in 1996 and 2003 and all these appointments raised lots of controversies. The commission was scrapped in 2007 and selection committees were once again created in all the universities for the purpose. Federation of University Service Teachers' Associations of Bihar working president Kanhaiya Bahadur Sinha and general secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh, MLC, alleged that the state government is not all interested in filling up the vacant posts of teachers in different colleges and universities on a regular basis and that's why it's complicating the issue of appointment. During the last more than one decade, it has not been able to frame a fool-proof policy for the appointment of teachers, causing irreparable damage to the higher education system, they added.