

30% posts of vets vacant

The Department of Animal Husbandry is facing an acute shortage of veterinary doctors. Around 30 per cent of the posts of doctors are lying vacant. Presently, there are 1,423 sanctioned posts, of which 400 are vacant for the past several years.

There are more than 1,400 dispensaries in the state which require vets. However, a large number of these are being run by pharmacists, who were designated as veterinary inspectors some time ago.

A large number of posts of senior doctors who look after administrative work at the headquarters is also vacant. For instance, there are five posts of Joint Director, of which four are lying vacant.

Of the 27 sanctioned posts of Deputy Director, 17 are vacant. There are 93 sanctioned posts of Senior Veterinary Officer/ Assistant Director but 25 are without incumbents.

There are 41 sanctioned posts of specialists, of which only 10 are filled. There are 7,000 sanctioned posts in the department, of which 2,000 are vacant.

Dr Ashok Sharma, president, Punjab State Veterinary Officers Association, said the services in rural areas were suffering due to the shortage of staff.

“Our services are akin to those of the Health Department. But the government is not doing anything to fill the vacancies,” he added.

Dr HS Sandha, Director, Animal Husbandry, did not take calls despite repeated attempts.