

UT not to hold exam for hiring teachers under SSA

CHANDIGARH: The UT education department is going to change the criteria for the upcoming recruitment of teachers under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme, a fallout of the leak of paper for the recruitment of teachers in 2015.

The department has decided to phase out the written test. Selection will be done on basis of marks secured by the candidates in Central Teaching Eligibility Test and other academic qualification.

The department had almost completed the exercise to recruit the teachers through exams, but decided to change the format to avoid any kind of mischievous or wrongdoing.

"We are going to recruit teachers under SSA on merit basis, which will be prepared by comprising marks taken in CTET, graduation, post-graduation and other relevant classes. There won't be any interview. Candidates will be selected purely on the basis of merit," said Rubinderjit Singh Brar, direction of school education, UT. "This new criteria is only for the upcoming recruitment under SSA", Brar added.

Both Punjab and Haryana have already adopted this method - Punjab Teachers' Eligibility Test for Punjab and Haryana Teachers' Eligibility Test for Haryana, But both these states also conduct interviews.

Though the administration recruited teachers last year, there is still shortfall of teachers in Chandigarh and thus recruitment is required. Besides direct recruitment, the Chandigarh administration also hires teachers from Punjab and Haryana on deputation.

In 2015, the paper was sold to about 25 candidates for Rs 7 lakh each two-three days before the examinations conducted in January-February. The Punjab vigilance wing had failed to find the culprit. The Chandigarh police had lodged an FIR (first information report) on July 29.

Sources told TOI, "In the detailed FIR, we have around one dozen accused, including some of the teachers who had obtained the key of question paper before the test. But we are not sure from which place the question paper was leaked."

In the FIR of Chandigarh police, the accused were Mithilesh Pandey alias Guruji and Master of Lucknow, Suresh Yadav of Najafgarh in Haryana,

Satinder Hooda of Manimajra, Poonam, Naresh Yadav and Brijender Nain. The recruitment scam in Chandigarh came to light during investigation by Punjab vigilance wing, which summoned and interrogated Hooda. He was in touch with Mithilesh Pandey, one of the masterminds.