

The Hindu

Fill up vacancies in DTEA schools in one month

The Delhi High Court has directed the Aam Aadmi Party government to complete within a month the process of appointment of teachers in seven linguistic minority schools run by the Delhi Tamil Education Association (DTEA).

A Bench headed by Chief Justice G. Rohini said: “The court is of the view that year-long hiatus in appointment of 79 teachers in the petitioner’s school cannot be allowed to be prolonged as it will only lead to detriment of interest of schoolchildren.”

The court was deciding the plea of DTEA, which said the sanctioned strength of teachers in schools run by it is 336, of which only 256 have been filled and 79 have been lying vacant for over a year. The plea added that the immense shortage of teachers was hampering the process of imparting instructions to students.

Advocate Shantha Devi Raman, appearing for the DTEA, also sought recall of two orders issued by the government directing to keep the recruitment process for 54 posts of teachers in abeyance for its seven schools across Delhi owing to some management issues.

The association has seven schools at Lodhi Estate, R.K. Puram, Pusa Road, Moti Bagh, Janakpuri, Mandir Marg and Laxmi Bai Nagar. The DTEA was granted linguistic minority status in 2000. These schools are government-aided as 95 per cent of teachers and staff salary is provided by the government and five per cent by the association management.

“The advertisement for filling of the posts was issued sometime ago. Three of the five members of the selection committee are government nominees. Hence, the government would effectively have control over the selection process... There is no reason why the appointment should be delayed any further. In the circumstances, the process of appointment of schoolteachers is directed to be completed in a period of one month,” the Bench ordered.

The AAP government had told the court that the school was accorded approval for filling up 54 vacancies as against DTEA’s claim for 79 and these 54 teachers could be filled as an interim measure from the government’s pool of guest teachers.

The DTEA, however, submitted that they are linguistic minority schools, in which the medium of instruction is Tamil up to Class VIII and the teachers have to be necessarily fluent in the language.