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Govt to replace principals of schools with poor results

New Delhi: The Delhi government is getting ready to "turn around" the most difficult, low-performing schools it runs. To be effected through "administrative changes", this is separate from Project Chunauti.

The government has decided to identify 20-25 schools with the worst track records and strike right at the top.

"Their principals will be removed and placed elsewhere, in administrative jobs. They'll be replaced by principals with the best records. Very often, all it takes is a good leader," said a source within the government. This "experiment", hopes the government, will turn these schools into the best they have within a year.

But the new principals will not be on their own. Within a month, the government will apparently place 5,000 new teachers in the most "challenging" schools in the city.

"There is a shortage of teachers in schools in outer Delhi. Not only will this bring some relief, it will also place new blood in the most difficult schools," the source said.

Apparently, these are permanent appointments based on the 2012 recruitment exams. These schools will be monitored closely and given "every resource they need."

"Usually, the best principals are not sent to difficult schools but to the ones already doing well. This will be an experiment," he said.

The Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas, for instance, draw the best talent; once the 54 model schools were so-graded, the government hastened to fill all their posts as well. However, outer Delhi, slum areas and resettlement colonies have some of the most crowded schools with ridiculously unfavourable pupil-teacher-ratios.

Finally, 586 trained graduate teachers (TGTs teach Classes VI-X) will be promoted to post-graduate teachers (PGTs teach senior secondary school). "This should create at least a small dent in the number of PGT posts currently vacant in the Directorate of Education," he said.