

The Tribune

475 doctors shifted before notifying transfer policy

The Haryana Government has shifted 433 Medical Officers and 42 Senior Medical Officers even before it could notify its transfer policy. The transfer order was issued on Thursday night. Doctors are unhappy because of the haste in transferring them.

Health Minister Anil Vij told The Tribune today the transfer was part of the rationalisation exercise of the Health Department and it served two purposes — first, to fill vacancies and second, to shift Medical Officers from stations where their strength outnumbered sanctioned posts.

The government shifted 32 doctors from Panchkula, the most crowded district for Medical Officers. Relatives of several VVIPs are posted there. Of 32 doctors, 22 were shifted to other districts and the remaining accommodated at different stations in Panchkula.

For the first time, doctors were transferred online through a software developed by the department.

“After online transfers in the Education Department, the government prepared a draft of the transfer policy. As per the policy, no doctor posted at a station for less than five years will be shifted against his or her will, while options will be sought from others. The government invited comments on the policy. But without waiting for the policy to be notified, the government transferred doctors. It did not even seek options from them,” a doctor said.

Sources said several doctors had sent representations to the department, complaining that their stay at a station was less than two years. Their other grouse was they had been transferred to far-off places.

Many women doctors were transferred, ignoring their right to stay at a station where their husbands were posted. The department, while preparing a proposal for transfers on Vij's orders on September 1, had pointed out flaws in the list, sources said. The discrepancies crept in because the list was prepared online for the first time. The department had sought time so that doctors could raise objections.

But Vij, sources said, was keen to issue the list immediately and ordered that discrepancies, if any, would be resolved later.