

The Indian Express

JBT teachers call off hunger strike after government assures of jobs

Fifteen days after they began their hunger strike demanding appointment letters from the government, Junior Basic Training (JBT) teachers called off their strike Monday.

A total of 9,455 teachers were selected as primary teachers in various government schools by Haryana government in August 2014 on the basis of Haryana Teachers' Eligibility Test (HTET). However, till date, the teachers have not been given appointment letters.

The members had been holding protest rallies in various parts of the state and organising sit-in protests but were yet to be taken on rolls by the government. On September 2, the teachers sat on an indefinite hunger strike in Panchkula in support of their demands. Some of the teachers had to be admitted in hospital after their condition deteriorated during the strike.

On Monday, BJP MLA Gian Chand Gupta and Additional Director, Primary Education, Virender Dahiya met the striking teachers and assured them that their demands would be met.

Education Minister Ram Bilas Sharma also talked to the representative of the union and assured them that they would be given jobs soon after the stay orders are vacated by the court. Chairman, Haryana Housing Board, Jawahar Yadav, too, assured the teachers that their demands would be met.

Rajender Sharma, president, JBT Teachers' Union thanked Gupta and said the the teachers have called off the protest following assurance from the government that their demands will be met. "We hope the government will adhere to keep its promise and provide us jobs soon after the stay orders are vacated," he said.