

## **The Tribune**

### **Of 1,040 posts of coach, 616 still vacant in state**

Despite bringing laurels in various national and international events, sportspersons still wait for the required number of coaches in the state.

Sources said that not a single district had the sanctioned strength of coaches. The process to recruit around 500 coaches was started by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission some months ago, but the scrutiny of applications was still going on, said the sources.

“As the demand for coaches grows louder, the department has also started a process to recruit coaches on contract basis through the Haryana Knowledge Corporation,” he said.

According to the Sports and Youth Affairs Department, there are 1,040 sanctioned posts of coach in the state, but currently around 424 coaches of 38 games are posted in various districts.

“Our youngsters are getting medals at the national and international levels without the required number of coaches. Some coaches were transferred last year, but there is no new recruitment since the formation of the BJP government in the state,” said a district sports officer.

Much hype was created by the state government after Sakshi Malik won bronze medal in the Rio Olympics, but the government had failed to provide the required wrestling coaches and currently, 66 were working against the sanctioned strength of 88, he said.

“Not only wrestling, but there are two other high-performance games—athletics and boxing — in which the state is winning medals consistently. But there are only 58 athletic coaches against the sanctioned strength of 74, while boxing has only 23 coaches against the sanctioned strength of 74,” he said.

Apart from this, the state could do better in other games, including swimming, cycling and gymnastic, but these games also lacked the required number of coaches, he added.

“The state government is not serious about promoting sports and is only interested in taking credit by giving some money to medal winners. When there are hundreds of posts of coach are lying vacant then why the

government is spending crores of rupees on the golden jubilee celebrations,” questioned Ran Singh Mann, state Congress spokesperson.

“The process to recruit coaches on regular and contract basis is going on. Soon, the state would get the required number of coaches,” said KK Khandelwal, Additional Chief Secretary of the department.