

## **The Indian Express**

### **Haryana government to re-engage guest teachers after SC order**

Months after they were terminated, the Haryana government has decided to re-engage the services of guest teachers following a Supreme Court order. The state government had terminated services of 3,581 guest teachers after orders by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in May last year.

This was followed by protests across the state even as the government assured that recruitment of teachers will be done within a few months. However, the process is yet to be completed. In November, the High Court allowed the government to re-employ teachers till March 31.

In the meantime, a section of the teachers moved the Supreme Court which directed the government to re-employ them. After seeking legal opinion, the government has now decided to re-engage the services of those teachers who were in service till March this year.

The spokesperson of Guest Teachers Association, Dharambir Kaushik said, "The teachers are relieved by the decision. For the past five and a half months, the teachers have been unemployed. They were not surplus and still their services were terminated. The teachers have finally got justice."

A spokesman of the Education Department said that the terminated guest teachers would be re-engaged on a case to case basis where workload and vacancies are available. However, preference of station could be given for places where they were earlier posted keeping the workload and the vacancy in mind.

If there is no workload or vacancy in the school where the guest teacher were working before being terminated, he or she may be appointed in the nearest school where there are vacancies. The services of these guest teachers can be terminated any time as and when any fresh direction comes from the apex court or when regular teachers are available, whichever is earlier.

The spokesman further said that if a guest teacher had applied to be appointed in a particular district and workload or vacancies have already been exhausted there, the District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO) concerned would forward his name to the Director, Elementary Education,

Haryana, Panchkula. The Director would forward the name of such teachers to other districts where workload and vacancies are available in government schools for their appointment.