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Congress, BJP at loggerheads over recruitment in government jobs

SHIMLA: The issue of alleged irregularities in the recruitment process under the Congress government has brought the opposition BJP and Congress at loggerheads. While BJP is claiming to have proofs of irregularities, Congress claims that the allegations being aired by former chief minister and leader of opposition Prem Kumar Dhumal and his coterie were "baseless, biased and malafide."

Dhumal had recently raised the issue of alleged irregularities in the recruitment being done for class three and class four posts, besides in the cooperative bank. He said in a bid to ensure such irregularities were not exposed in the future, even records were being destroyed. He said ignoring merit, people belonging to a particular party were being recruited. He had alleged that at the behest of the ruling party, some officers were doing this. Going a step further, BJP spokespersons Vikram Thakur, Mahender Dharmani, and Himanshu Mishar claimed they had evidence, including recommendation letters and audio clips, to prove irregularities in recruitment for various departments. They said on coming to power, all this would be probed.

Expressing surprise over the statements of BJP leaders, urban development minister Sudhir Sharma and ayurveda minister Karan Singh, in a joint statement, said during the past 45 months of the Congress regime, around 60,000 jobs were provided in the government sector alone.

They said all codal formalities were being observed to fill the posts as and when advertised by the government with complete transparency and in a just manner, which had baffled BJP leaders.

They said over 13,000 jobs were provided in the education department during the past 45 months, besides as of today, 1,300 posts of post-graduate teachers, 950 trained graduate teachers, 600 JBTs, 1,500 C&V teachers, and as many as 620 posts of associate professors were in process of being filled.

Under the Skill Development Allowance scheme, around 1.63 lakh youth had benefited. Around 13,000 functional posts were also likely to be filled in the near future, they said. Ministers said the state government was adopting zero -interference in the recruitment process, and all

recruitments — whether in police, forests, or education departments — were completely being done on merit, and by adopting proper rules and procedures. They said if BJP's claims were found to be true, action would be taken against those found guilty.