

The Hindu

Steps being taken to fill vacancies in government departments: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that vacancies in key government departments is one of the reasons for the delay in spending the funds allocated by the government for the development of the region and steps have been taken to fill these posts.

Speaking after garlanding the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and unfurling the national flag to mark the 69th Hyderabad Karnataka Liberation Day celebrations here on Saturday, he said that 12,000 of the over 30,000 vacancies in government departments in the Hyderabad Karnataka region had been filled and the process of filling the remaining posts would be completed within a few months.

The Chief Minister admitted that there had been a delay in spending the funds allocated for the Hyderabad Karnataka Region Development Board (HKRDB) and this was mainly owing to the vacancies in government departments.

The problem would be a thing of the past soon. In the last three years, the State government had sanctioned more than Rs. 2,750 crore to the HKRDB and more than Rs. 1,330 crore had been spent so far.

Funds

Every year, the State government was providing Rs. 1,000 crore to the board to take up development works to address regional imbalance and increasing the human development index in the region. The Finance Department had been directed that there should not be any delay in releasing funds to the HKRDB whenever there was a demand. Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the government had extended the period for implementing the recommendations of the Nanjundappa Committee report by another five years from 2015-16 and was providing Rs. 3,000 crore every year to implement the recommendations.

Reiterating the commitment of the State government to protect the interests of the backward classes, minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, he said that the government had implemented welfare schemes to serve their interests. He said that the implementation of the Ksheera Bhagya scheme to provide free milk to children had helped

reduce malnutrition among children in the Hyderabad Karnataka region, which had high incidence of malnutrition among children.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that investments for new industries had seen a steep increase after the implementation of the new industrial policy.

Karnataka had reached the first place in the first two quarters of the current financial year as far as investments in new industrial units were concerned.

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Medical Education Minister Sharanprakash Patil, the former Ministers Qamarul Islam, Malikayya Guttedar, and legislator Amarnath Patil were present.