

## **Steps soon to fill vacancies of first division assistants**

Revenue Minister Kagodu Thimmappa has promised steps to fill vacancies of first division assistants (FDA) in the Revenue Department through direct recruitment.

Admitting that direct recruitment of FDAs in the department had not taken place for the past more than two decades, he said that 30 per cent posts of FDAs would be filled through direct recruitment as mandated in the Karnataka State Civil services Act 1978.

He told The Hindu on Friday that recruitment of FDAs had not taken place for long resulting in vacancies. Direct recruitment of FDAs on merit basis providing mandatory reservations, including to those from the Hyderabad Karnataka region under Article 371(J) of the Constitution, would be taken up soon.

Mr. Thimmappa said that a large number of posts of tahsildars were vacant as recruitments had not taken place for long. Rules would be amended to enable the government to take up direct recruitment of the tahsildar cadre officers.

Official sources pointed out that in the absence of direct recruitment of FDAs, those posts were being filled by temporarily posting second division clerks (SDCs) and later promoting them. This had resulted in less qualified persons occupying the posts. While the minimum qualification for direct recruitment of FDAs was graduation, non-graduates were eligible to be appointed as SDCs.

The delay on the part of the Revenue Department to notify vacant posts of FDAs and fill them through direct recruitment had denied young graduates an opportunity to serve in government departments. This had deprived the department of qualified human resource to work at the middle level, the Minister added.