

The Hindu

Govt all set to hand over devaswom hiring to PSC

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: With the state cabinet deciding on Wednesday to introduce amendment to Kerala Devaswom Recruitment Act of 2015, the devaswom recruitment board will cease to exist. The amendment to be presented in the assembly will propose to hand over the recruitment of non-priest posts in devaswom boards to the state public service commission.

The bill will be introduced in the assembly session beginning on September 26. The decision of the cabinet is against the demand made by NSS and SNDP against the dissolution of the devaswom recruitment board.

The state cabinet that met here on Wednesday decided to introduce the bill in the ensuing assembly session. The bill will address the recruitments to the Travancore devaswom board as a first step. The decision on the other devaswom boards will be taken later. The UDF had already slammed the government move to abolish the devaswom recruitment board which was constituted during its tenure. The devaswom recruitment board bill was passed by the assembly in July 2015. This bill had stipulated that there will be 32% reservation for SC/ST and OBC candidates in appointment to various devaswom boards in the state.

The LDF had opposed the bill then claiming that it would only help the RSS take over the temples. The opposition had raised doubts on how the recruitment board would identify "true Hindus".

After LDF government came to power devaswom minister Kadkampally Surendran had made it clear that the appointments to the devaswom boards would be given to the PSC and there was no need for a separate recruitment board for this.