

## **Health wing of the Kochi Corporation has several posts vacant**

The day-to-day functioning of the health wing of the Kochi Corporation, which was paralysed by staff shortage, has been thrown out of gear with the fresh transfer of civic officials.

Cleaning operations in the city had earlier come to a standstill with the local body deciding to terminate the services of 150 workers who had been deployed in 74 divisions. The civic authorities received a major jolt following the fresh round of transfers, with nearly half the number of posts of Health Inspectors falling vacant. As many as 22 posts have fallen vacant, affecting the functioning of the Health wing of the corporation, said V.K. Minimol, chairperson of the health standing committee of the local body.

Incidentally, almost all senior positions in the health wing have been lying vacant for quite some time. The posts of Health Officer, Assistant Health Officer, and Lady Health Officer, all reserved for medical graduates, have been lying vacant, though the civic administration has been pressing for filling up the vacancies. The government has not filled up the vacancies, though the corporation council has been persistently demanding that the posts be filled up considering the health scenario of the city, she said.

Meanwhile, the corporation council has urged the authorities to sanction the posts of an Entomologist, a Computer Engineer, a Finance Officer, a Mechanical Engineer, and an Estate Manager for streamlining city administration.

Considering the intensity of mosquito menace in Kochi, the services of an entomologist and a mechanical engineer for monitoring the management and service of its fleet of vehicles is essential. The support of the government is required for filling up vacancies and improving the services of the corporation, said Deputy Mayor T.J. Vinod.

Staff shortage will slacken the pace of the administration, he pointed out.