

## **The New Indian Express**

### **Only recruitment of Devaswom admin staff will be handed over to PSC: Minister**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Aiming to streamline the administration of temples in the state and to ensure transparency in recruitment, the LDF government is for entrusting the recruitment of staff, other than those who perform rituals, to the Public Service Commission. However, about 60 per cent of the staff in the temples who perform rituals would be recruited through the Kerala Devaswom Recruitment Board, Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran told the Assembly on Monday. Stressing that there was no change in the government's policy of entrusting the recruitment of temple staff to the PSC, he said, "Only recruitments to the administrative wing can be entrusted with the PSC. The other posts are related to the rituals for which a Board is needed.

'Minister's statement contradictory'

Opposing the amendment, V D Satheeshan (Congress) said that the presentation of the bill was in violation of the Minister's earlier statement. "The Minister had earlier told the Assembly that the Kerala Devaswom Recruitment Board Bill, which was brought in by the previous UDF government, would have no relevance once Devaswom recruitment is handed over to the PSC. But the Minister has now introduced Kerala Dewaswam Recruitment Board (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the House, which contradicts his earlier statement," he said.

'It's an Approval of UDF Policy'

Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan of the Congress said though the LDF had opposed the Devaswom Recruitment Board introduced by the UDF government, it was now accepting the UDF policy. "The LDF opposed the creation of Devaswom Recruitment Board and was for entrusting the recruitment to the PSC. But now they have brought in the amendment bill," he said adding that it seems the LDF was not against the board but against the number of members. The Amendment Bill is being introduced only for reducing the number of members to three from the earlier six, he charged.