

Kerala University ha 548 vacancies

The alleged indifference of university authorities in furnishing details of vacancies is feared to stymie the Public Service Commission's plan to complete recruitment to the 13 universities in the State within a specific timeframe.

Despite the Cabinet directive and repeated reminders of the commission to expedite vacancy reporting, the universities are understood to have reported only 548 vacancies till date.

Commission sources told The Hindu here that appointing authorities of almost all the 13 universities have chosen to brush aside the Cabinet directive and also the commission entreaties and have not taken any step to ease out the temporary candidates who are manning the posts at present.

Though Kerala University alone has more than 400 assistant vacancies, only 80 of them have been reported to the commission so far.

This laxity stands exposed at a time when the commission was attempting to complete the process against a set deadline.

Main list of candidates

It has prepared a main list of 5,000 candidates on the basis of a written examination held on May 24. Preparations for verifying the credentials of candidates in all the 14 districts is scheduled to begin on July 11 and once the process is completed within 10 days, the commission would begin the process of preparing the rank-list.

This indifference of the appointing authorities and section heads of universities are reported to be against the spirit of the State Cabinet decision to lift the recruitment ban that was imposed on the premise of the financial crisis and fill up the vacancies that exist in government departments, public sector undertakings and autonomous institutions, including universities.

The delay in vacancy reporting has also substantiated the complaints that the appointing authorities and department heads tend to suppress the details of the vacancies which arise in their purview from time to time and fill it with candidates of their choice.

Even crucial sections in universities that tabulate marks of examinations are now being manned by such temporary or contract employees. Even on detecting major slips in the preparation of mark-lists, the universities may not be able to fix responsibility on such contract employees.

The maximum what they could do against such employees is to terminate their contract. Still, most of the universities are deploying contract employees to man crucial positions, sources said.