

Education department has given a green signal to appointment of 6,663 guest instructors

Aurangabad: The education department has given a green signal to appointment of 6,663 guest instructors, who will teach in 2,221 government-run schools in the state. Children from upper primary schools (class VI to class VIII) will benefit from the teaching imparted by these instructors.

The workload of arts, physical education and work-education will be assigned to the guest instructors, whose appointment will be done by the respective school management committee (SMC).

A panel of three instructors will be appointed for each of these schools, having student enrolment of more than 100, a latest government resolution has said.

The education department has also announced that the Centre has approved in-principle funds of Rs 33.3 crore towards honorarium for these instructors.

It may be noted formal announcement proposing appointment of these instructors was first made during October last year in keeping with the directives of the Bombay High Court in response to a petition filed in the matter of desired implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The legislation enables offering free and compulsory education for children between the age group of 6 and 14 years, belonging to the weaker sections.

The move, however, had irked candidates who have completed formal teachers training courses and are awaiting jobs. Sensing threat to their job prospects, the candidates had also protested the amount of honorarium to be awarded to guest instructors. As per laid down norms, an honorarium of Rs 50 per teaching session will be awarded to the guest instructor.

The exact number of schools from Aurangabad district, benefiting from the services of guest instructor, could not be ascertained. The number is expected to be around 150. Senior education department officials said each guest instructor cannot conduct more than 12 teaching sessions in a week.

Each instructor can engage in a maximum of 176 teaching sessions per year for the assigned subject. There has been a demand for increasing the honorarium for these instructors, which has been forwarded to the government, authorities said.

Rajesh Hiwale, spokesperson of state-level association of primary teachers, said, "The government should also focus on making full-time appointments of teachers for physical education and work-education subjects. While there is a need for increasing the honorarium of guest instructors, the government should also take efforts for making necessary appointments on a permanent basis in the best interest of students."