

Maha conducted TET thrice, none got a teacher's job!

Yavatmal: The state government has made Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) mandatory to be eligible for getting a primary teacher's job and conducting it twice every academic year.

Thus far, the state has conducted the test thrice, including Tuesday's exam. However, not a single candidate has been provided employment as primary teacher as there are no vacancies in the state, raising questions over the purpose behind the entire TET exercise.

Maha TET is conducted twice every academic year and the validity period of TET qualifying certificate is seven years for all categories from the date of award of the certificate. There is no restriction on the number of attempts for acquiring a TET certificate. A person, who is a qualified TET, may also appear again for improving his/her own score.

There were 24 examination centres in Yavatmal alone and over 6,040 candidates from across the district were scheduled to appear for the TET on Tuesday. The number of aspirants from all over the state was over 25,000, though there are, at present, no vacancies to be filled in.

The district president of the Zilla Parishad Teachers' Union Sahebrao Pawar was critical about the government's decision to hold such eligibility test as there are over 30,000 teachers in excess across the state. "It is nothing but a farce," Pawar said, adding unless the state government opts to amend the RTE Act, the issue of excess teachers cannot be solved. He urged the government to amend the provision related to the teachers' ratio as per the minimum admission in each class.

On the other hand, the aspirants are left with no other choice. Hanging on to only a remote possibility of getting a primary teacher's job, a 24-year-old woman, carrying her one-year-old baby in her arms, travelled over 100 kms from Pusad to reach the city to appear for the TET.

Though sceptical about the outcome, Seema Rahul Kakade came to the local Govt Boys High School. Braving summer heat, Seema set up a temporary cradle in the cycle stand of the school and made her daughter Tanuja sleep there before she went in to the exam. Talking to TOI, Seema said, "I wish to get a job as I already have the D.Ed qualification."