## The Sangai Express

## **Contract staff demand to fill vacancies in Fishery Dept**

IMPHAL: The Fisheries Officiating Employees Union has categorically stated that no recruitment should be made against vacant posts in Fishery Department until the service of all the existing contract employees are regularized.

Speaking to media persons at Manipur Press Club here this afternoon, the union's acting secretary Khaidem Gopal said that 175 officiating employees were recruited in accordance with the results of the DPC held between May 22, 1985 and August 2, 1985.

With the passage of time, the number of officiating employees dwindled to 110 and they were converted into contract employees. The 110 contract employees must first be regularised before vacant posts are filled up through fresh recruitment process, Gopal said.

With regard to the proposed regularization of the 110 contract employees, a Cabinet memo was already prepared for deliberation of the same matter at a Cabinet meeting.

Although it has been four/five months since the Cabinet memo was prepared, the matter is yet to figure in a Cabinet meeting.

Recently, the ban on recruitment was lifted in order to fill vacant posts in Fishery Department. Some members of the union went to meet the Fishery Minister yesterday with an appeal to regularise the existing 110 contract employees.

However, the representatives were made to wait from 7 am to 11.30 am only to be dismissed without giving any appointment, Gopal said. He also condemned the way the Minister humiliated them.