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BEd, CT passouts oppose 'teacher-on-call' scheme

BHUBANESWAR: Unemployed BEd and certificate in teaching (CT) passouts strongly opposed the state government's initiative to engage retired teachers through 'teacher-on-call' scheme and demanded their appointment against vacant posts at the earliest. They said more than 60,000 trained BEd and CT candidates are awaiting jobs in the state.

"It's strange that at a time when thousands of eligible candidates are still unemployed, the state government is engaging retired teachers in schools. The government is also misleading the public and media by disseminating wrong information about shortage of trained, eligible candidates here," said Satya Bhusan Tarai, president of Trained Unemployed CT and BEd Degree Holders' Association.

Sources said at least 13000 posts are lying vacant in high schools, while around 36000 posts are lying vacant in elementary schools across the state.

The state government had launched the 'teacher-on-call' scheme on August 17 to engage retired high schoolteachers. They added that the state produces more than 6000 certificate of teaching (CT), 1000 diploma in special education (DSE) and around 2000 BEd candidates every year. This apart, a large number of Odia students undertake BEd course from other state universities.

"We have met the minister and senior officials several times, but no steps are being taken for filling up the vacant posts," Tarai said.

The eligible candidates have asked the state government to issue notification regarding appointment of teachers against vacant posts by September 20, failing which they have threatened to sit on an indefinite strike in front of the assembly from September 22.

The candidates also demanded making Odisha Secondary Teachers' Eligibility Test (OSTET) compulsory for appointment of teachers in high schools like primary schools.

"We also want quality schoolteachers, who are ready to go through OSTET. The state government has been sitting over the proposal for the last three years. More than 30,000 OTET qualified candidates are yet to get appointment in primary schools," alleged another candidate.