

# **The Times of India**

## **OSSTET mandatory for teachers' recruitment in high schools**

BHUBANESWAR: Qualifying Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Eligibility Test (OSSTET) will be a mandatory criterion for recruitment of high school teachers. The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha will conduct the test by the year end, said school and mass education minister Debi Prasad Mishra here on Thursday.

"The guidelines and modalities for the test are ready and the board will complete the procedure for the test by November this year. The eligibility test aimed at ensuring quality education in high schools," Mishra said adding "The state government will soon start recruitment process for around 7000 teachers' posts in a phased manner." Sources said, once qualified the certificate of OSSTET would be valid for next seven years while there will be no restriction on number of attempts for clearing the test.

There will be all multiple-choice questions in the examination to be held in the annual examination. One has to secure minimum mark of 60% in each subject to pass the test. However the minimum pass mark is 50% for candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC), Schedules Tribe (ST), physically handicapped and OBC categories, official sources said.

The state government has made Odisha Teachers Eligibility Test (OTET) certificate mandatory for teachers' recruitment in primary schools since 2012, but very few candidates have qualified the test. "We welcome the step of the state government to conduct OSSTET. But we doubt whether even after qualifying the exam recruitment will be done. Because so far over 40,000 OTET qualified teachers are waiting for recruitment," said Satya Bhusan Tarai, president, Unemployed CT and BEd Teachers' Association. Hundreds of unemployed Certificate in Teaching (CT) and BEd students staged protest in front of the Assembly on Thursday demanding recruitment of teachers in vacant posts. Around 60,000 trained BEd and CT candidates waiting for jobs in the state, they said.

Sources said, at least 13,000 teachers' posts are lying vacant in high schools while around 36,000 posts are lying vacant in elementary schools across the state.