

43,000 Teacher Posts are vacant in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Even as a large number of teacher posts are vacant at the elementary level, the state government today decided to set up open schools in all the 314 blocks. A decision to this effect was taken at a high level meeting presided over by chief minister Naveen Patnaik here at the secretariat where he reviewed the performance of school and mass education department during the last two years.

The open school scheme, launched on a pilot basis last year, will be extended to all blocks in the state during the year. However, more than 43,000 posts of teacher are vacant at the elementary level, the number of vacancies in high schools is more than 22,000. It was decided that adarsh vidyalayas will be established in all blocks of the state by 2018-19. The state government has opened 100 adarsh vidyalayas in 2016. Official sources said that 100 and 114 more such schools will be opened in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

The chief minister directed the school and mass education department that there should be no compromise in the quality of teaching in the schools run by the government. It was decided teachers will have to stay in hostels of adarsh vidyalayas. Naveen directed construction of hostels for adarsh vidyalayas should be completed soon.

As Centre has stopped funding of adarsh vidyalayas, it was decided that running fund of rupees one to two lakh will be provided for each school.

The chief minister said that to improve the ratio between teachers and students in schools, 9354 siksha sahayaks and 3669 contract teachers have been appointed.

Training of teachers should be given priority, Naveen said and asked the department to take steps to chart out a programme in this regard.

Teaching is also being conducted in 21 tribal dialects in 17 districts for which 3400 teachers have been appointed. The chief minister said steps should be initiated for appointment of teachers in Telugu and Bengali language.

Besides, it was decided that vocational courses will be launched in 284 high schools of the State. School and mass education minister Debi Prasad Mishra, chief secretary AP Padhi and senior officials were present.