

The Times of India

Varsity teachers for re-hiring after superannuation

BHUBANESWAR: While the state government has been re-employing retired OAS officers as officers on special duty (OSD), there is a growing clamour among university fraternity for their re-employment after retirement.

Santosh Tripathy, president of Utkal University Teachers Association, said the university teachers should be re-employed on contract principally for two reasons. First, varsity teachers in Odisha retire at 60 years of age compared to 65 years in most other states.

Till the government accepts the teachers' demands to extend the age of superannuation till 65 years, it should consider contractual appointment for five years for them, he said.

Secondly, the universities are still facing acute shortage of teachers at the senior (professor) level. The contractual appointments of the retirees will help tide over the shortage at the senior level and help having a good mix of senior and junior level faculty members boosting the academic ambience, he said.

Despite massive recruitment in past two years, around 40 this year and 30 last year, Utkal University still faces shortage of faculty members particularly at the professor level. The university still doesn't have any professor 11 departments. Of the 42 posts of professors, 21 are lying vacant.

Against the sanctioned strength of 340 posts of teachers, the varsity has 173. The tally is not improving significantly because of spate in retirements. More than 20 teachers retired in 2015.

A senior officer of the higher education department said the government is not in favour of hiring retired teachers because of its financial implications.

Utkal University vice-chancellor Ashok Das said the university may hire retirees on contract for a limited period of time in case it notices non-availability expert in that particular area of specialisation.

West Bengal State University reemploys retired teachers after the varsity executive council approves the re-employment by considering his academic performance in last five years before superannuation. Initially for two years and can be extended by one year at a time till the teacher attains the age of 65 years. Panjab University Chandigarh too has a re-employment scheme for university teachers.