

## **The Tribune**

### **Govt appointed 65,143 teachers in nine yrs, says Daljit Cheema**

Constantly facing allegations of shortage of teachers in government schools, Punjab Education Minister Daljit Singh Cheema today claimed that the government had so far appointed 65,143 teachers and upgraded a number of schools to enable state youth get the best education.

The minister also trained guns at AAP claiming that the party was dreaming of grabbing power in Punjab, which would never be allowed to become a reality.

Speaking to the media at Laut after the inauguration of an upgraded school and distributing prizes among the winners of kabbadi tournament along with SAD leader Advocate Satbir Singh Khatra, Dr Cheema said Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi leadership was unaware of the rich heritage and history of the Punjab so these were dreaming of looting Punjab. But brave Punjabis would foil their bid as they had done in the case of Mughal invaders who had invaded Punjab several times.

He said AAP leaders did not respect religions that was the reason they first used the picture of Sri Darbar Sahib with broom and its MLA was found indulged in religious sacrilege incident in Malerkotla.

Cheema said they were unaware of the history, religious background and rich heritage of Punjab. Thus, they are making these attempts like Mughals.

He said other party leaders of Delhi had levelled serious allegations of drug abuse on the youth of Punjab, which have proved false, misleading and devoid of truth during the recent recruitment process to the police and other departments.

He said the people of Punjab would teach these parties a lifetime lesson during the coming Vidhan Sabha elections.

Replying to a query regarding the Education Department, the minister disclosed that a total of 65,143 teachers had been recruited during the nine-year tenure of the SAD-BJP combine.

He said a total of 1,800 schools have been upgraded during this tenure and Punjab was leading other states in the matter of providing the best

infrastructure in government schools. A total of 600 schools had been upgraded this year. Out of this, 32 are in Patiala district.

He also disclosed that the department had already initiated process to recruit 2,005 teachers against the post that would fall vacant in 2017 due to retirement of teachers.

He said by March 31, 2017, there would be no vacant post of primary teacher in government schools. As many as 400 lecturers had been promoted as principals, whereas 77 teachers have been promoted as BEOs.

He also gave cheques for Rs 26 lakh each to Laut and Baran schools.