

## **The Tribune**

### **Job applications sought thrice, but no counselling date yet**

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayats has thrice sought applications for the posts of rural medical officer (RMO), but the authorities concerned haven't issued any counselling schedule yet.

The department had first sought applications for 346 posts of rural medical officer on June 25 asking candidates to download the form from its website or collect from any Zila Parishad office and submit by July 15. Thereafter, the last date was extended to August 1. However, the forms were neither uploaded on the website nor made available in the Zila Parishad offices.

Later, the posts were increased from 346 to 370 and the last date of submission of applications was also extended from August 1 to 11. This was also done only after The Tribune had published a news item in this regard.

A job aspirant from Tarn Taran said, "Nearly one-and-a-half month has passed since the last date of submission of forms, but the department has not announced the counselling schedule yet. We asked the officials in the local Zila Parishad office and the head office as well, but they are not giving us any satisfactory reply."

Baljit Singh, deputy director, Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, said, "There is some technical hitch in announcing the counselling schedule. We also want to fill the vacant posts as soon as possible. The counselling schedule will be announced soon."

Due to the shortage of doctors at many places, a single doctor is looking after two-three dispensaries.