

## **Faculty shortage in college**

Even as students are about to join the Government Engineering College, Srirangam, the college has been struggling with shortage of faculty.

Started in 2013 with an intake of 300 students, at the initiative of Chief Minister Jayalalithaa when she was the Member of Legislative Assembly of Srirangam, the strength of the college has gone up to about 900. It is likely to go up further to 1200 with admission of 300 more students this year.

The college has been functioning on 13 acres of land at Sethurapatti near Manikandam. Necessary infrastructure including administrative building, class rooms and laboratories were constructed at a cost of Rs.60 crore. The Chief Minister declared open the new building in 2015.

The college offers bachelor of engineering course in five branches: civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electronics and communication engineering, electrical and electronics engineering and computer science engineering.

As per the AICTE norms, the college should have a teacher-student ratio of 1:15. However, except a few faculty members posted on transfer and deputation basis, regular staff has not been recruited for five departments so far.

According to sources, the college has 12 regular teaching staff as against the requirement of 80. Some professors have been drafted on deputation basis. Though the government has sanctioned 50 teaching posts for first and second year students about a year ago, there seems to be no move to recruit teachers.

With lack of regular staff, the college finds it difficult to apportion professors for taking classes although it is being managed with guest lecturers.

“As far as infrastructure is concerned, the college has excellent facilities right from laboratory to hostels and quarters. It is better than other government colleges in the State. But we must accept that we have just 10 per cent faculty strength. It is insufficient to impart quality education,” said a faculty member on condition of anonymity. Similarly, there are no regular non-teaching staff to run the college.

It is being managed with a temporary staff on daily wage basis for the last three years. He said the government should fill all sanctioned strength of teaching staff through the Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB) immediately.

Sources said the college authorities have written to the government in this regard. However, classes have not been affected as adequate number of visiting and guest faculty were available.