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U'khand guest teachers to partially withdraw stir

Dehradun: Over 6,000 guest teachers, who are agitating for permanent jobs in the state government schools, on Monday decided to partially withdraw their stir after an assurance by chief minister Harish Rawat, who promised them seven months of employment in the schools.

The protesting teachers said that they may take up their work assignment for seven months in the schools till March 31, 2017 on the request of the CM. The meeting was held on Sunday night.

Rawat told them that they can pursue their case in the court, which has put a halt on their continuance after March 31 next year.

"CM Rawat has asked us to honour the HC order, which as of now only allows our hiring till March 2017. We have agreed on this as a stop-gap arrangement and our demand will still be the same -- that a provision for our hiring post March 2017 should be made. As of now, we are willing to see if the CM fulfils his promises, since he has assured us of his cooperation with folded hands this time," said the vice-president of teachers association, Harish Arya.

He added: "Till now, we have not received the copy of the government order for our re appointments till March 2017, but we have come to know that the order has been passed and in a week, we will have jobs, at least for next seven months. "However, as a precautionary measure, eight of our members will continue the hunger strike at the protest site and we will only call off the agitation once we have the government orders in our hand," said the vice-president of the association, Harish Arya.

The contracts of the guest teachers ended on March 31 this year and they have been out of jobs and agitating ever since.

The Uttarakhand high court on July 27 had directed the state government to withdraw its January 28 notification on re-appointment of over 6,200 guest teachers. The order has come as a blow to the guest teachers, who are without jobs since March 31 when the education department had scrapped their contracts.

On January 28, the hill state government had directed the secondary education department to re-appoint the guest teachers in the cadre of assistant teacher LT Grade for which an advertisement was issued.