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Unemployed teachers demanded that UP government create 30,000 new vacancies

PILIBHIT: Unemployed teachers holding the Basic Training Certificate (BTC) have demanded that the Uttar Pradesh government create 30,000 new vacancies in the primary education department to accommodate nearly 24,500 diploma holders as assistant teachers in the state. As many as 1,200 BTC holders from different districts of UP, including Pilibhit, assembled in the state capital Lucknow on Friday to hand over a memorandum of their demands to the education minister. These unemployed teachers have warned of a statewide agitation from September 16 if their demands are not met.

In Pilibhit, 15 BTC diploma holders presented a copy of their memorandum to the minister of state (independent charge) for fishery and public enterprise Riaz Ahmad at his camp office.

According to the diploma holders here, primary schools in UP are facing a shortage of 1,09,991 assistant teachers and this is adversely affecting quality of education. However, the government is not taking any steps to fill up the vacancies even as those who passed out in 2013 after completing their BTC course are unemployed. Nearly 24,500 holders of the BTC diploma had passed out in 2013.

Arun Sharma, one of the unemployed diploma holders, told TOI that under the union government's primary education scheme, "The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009", all of them were eligible to teach in government primary schools as assistant teachers as they had also cleared the TET (Teacher Eligibility Test). He said the eligibility criteria for teaching in government primary schools envisaged that those with a BTC and who had also cleared the TET as qualified for the job.

Another unemployed aspiring teacher, Divya Gangwar, said, "The education director, UP government, DV Shrivastava had assured us of redressing our grievance positively by September 16 when 6,000 BTC qualifiers of 2013 batch from various districts had demonstrated in support of our demand at Laxman mela ground in Lucknow on September 2. As the government has not drafted any policy concerned till the current date, we feel that we are simply being deceived."