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Appoint LTs before guest teachers: HC to govt

Nainital: Uttarakhand high court on Friday ordered appointment of LT grade teachers prior to guest teachers and asked the state government to submit progress report of the appointment. The move comes as a blow to over 6,000 guest teachers who were expecting jobs in the state government schools. The next hearing on the matter has been posted for September 14.

"Honourable court ordered the vacancies to be filled by those aspirants first who have participated in the counselling for LT grade teachers on August 23. The vacancies which will be left after this can be filled by guest teachers." Vinay Kumar, counsel for the petitioner told TOI.

The petition was filed on Thursday by Dheeraj Kholia, a resident of Pithoragarh district and two others from Dehradun and Uttarkashi districts.

The HC also stated that the appointment of guest teachers will be done on vacant seats left after learned teachers (LT) grade teachers' appointment.

Government notification dated August 29, 2016, which secured the appointment of guest teachers in state government schools, was challenged in the HC stating that counselling for LT grade teachers was already done on August 23, 2016. Hence, they must be appointed prior to guest teachers.

The petitioners requested to the HC to stay the effect and operation of the order, citing that the order is violation of Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India.

Earlier, the high court quashed all government notifications regarding appointment of guest teachers and remarked that the move is contrary to the Constitution of India. The decision is also likely to have impact on more than 6,000 guest teachers working in government schools across 13 districts of the state.