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Education dept probing credentials of 70 govt teachers

Rudrapur: The basic education department in Udham Singh Nagar has launched a probe into the complaints that 70 government teachers in the district have landed jobs in primary schools on the basis of fake degrees or certificates.

Last year also, a similar probe had found that 17 primary teachers in the district had secured jobs on fake degrees. They were dismissed from services, but, no legal action was taken against them.

This year, the education department has decided to involve police into the matter so that legal action could be taken against the erring teachers.

Taking the matter seriously, the district education office (DEO) DC Sati is himself heading the probe into the complaints.

"All the teachers, who are in the realm of doubt, will soon be suspended so that they cannot affect the investigation. In case anyone is found guilty of the charges, he will not only be dismissed but legal action will also be taken against him," DEO (Basic) Sati told TOI. "To avert such cases in future, legal action is important," Sati added.

Additional superintendent of police (ASP), Pankaj Bhatt, said, "Last year, no complaint was officially filed by the education department and the erring teachers escaped legal actions. But, this time, the department has asked for our assistance. If any teacher is found guilty in this probe, we will take action."

Police are also suspecting involvement of a racket in the case. "Rackets from Bihar and Maharashtra are active in Udham Singh Nagar belt, and they provide fake degrees to the youth aspiring for a job," the ASP said.

In 2015, 28 such cases were probed where primary teachers faced allegations of acquiring their jobs by using fake documents. Department ordered a probe and 17 teachers were found guilty and were eventually dismissed from service.