

## **Uttarakhand govt yet to fill 9,000 reserved posts; Dalit students rant**

DEHRADUN: Infuriated at the state government for not filling more than 9000 vacant posts meant for the SC/ST/OBC category candidates, scores of students from these categories staged a massive protest from Parade Ground to Secretariat on Wednesday.

Almost 80% of the protesters came in buses from Jaunsar Bawar region and were led by Dalit leader Daulat Kunwar, who alleged that the state government is suppressing their rights by not giving jobs which are reserved for them.

Heads of various SC/ST & OBC federations and students from DAV PG college and various other colleges also joined the stir which was led largely by girl students. Before the march kicked off an array of speeches and slogans were given by youth those were called from almost all the spheres of society.

Meanwhile, some members of SC/ST/OBC category from various associations sat on protest from July 2 onward at parade ground but the movement got fillip today with majority of Jaunsar Bawar youth participated in the rally among other who came in from as far as Nainital, Chamoli and Tehri.

Speaking with the TOI, Daulat Kunwar, dalit leader and chairperson of backlog sangarsha samiti, Kaumlesh Bhatt, said, "Honorable Supreme Court order in 2006 has given a direction as per which all the backlog positions were supposed to be filled however, none of the government ever since focused on that direction. If the government fails to take necessary action then we will go on hunger strike. Any government which comes in the state will have to stop discriminating SC/ST/OBCs we have united to get our rights.