

The Indian Express

Poser to government: Why water down teacher criteria?

KOLKATA: Calcutta high court has taken exception to the state government asking the Centre to relax the eligibility criteria for teaching candidates when trained applicants far outnumber the recruitment capacity of state-aided primary schools.

Pointing to a petition by Chinmoy Dalui and others, stating that trained candidates who took the TET (Teacher Eligibility Test) for recruitment in state primary schools were 69% more than the recruitment capacity, Justice C S Karnan said, "Why then did the state write to the Centre on March 23, 2015, seeking further relaxation of the rules to allow recruitment of non-trained teachers? It means your higher officials misled the Centre. Why did you have to do so?" Following the state's prayer, the Centre relaxed the rule for one year.

Sensing the fallout of the status quo on recruitment that the court ordered on Wednesday, state counsel H R Dutta and West Bengal Primary School Board counsel Subir Sanyal pleaded that such a directive would jeopardize the entire recruitment process as the TET (primary) results were about to be published.

The board counsel also argued that Justice Carnan might transfer the case to the division bench of Chief Justice Manjula Chellur as a similar one was lying with it. "It is not a binding on me. I will hear the case separately tomorrow," Justice Carnan said.

Later, when the board counsel mentioned it in the Chief Justice's court, Chellur asked him to make an application to her secretary. "I will pass the administrative order," the Chief Justice said.