

Bhubaneswar

Home | City | Bhubaneswar | Crime | Civic Issues | Politics | Schools & Colleges | More Cities

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Opposition demands minister's scalp over teachers' scarcity

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BHUBANESWAR: The opposition Congress on Wednesday staged a walkout from the assembly to express their displeasure over the state government's apathy towards education.

During a debate on lack of teachers and poor infrastructure in primary and upper primary schools, the Congress and the BJP demanded resignation of school and mass education minister Debi Prasad Mishra.

Congress chief whip Taraprasad Bahinipati said over 1,00,000 teacher posts are lying vacant in the state. "It is unfortunate that despite ruling the state for 15 years, the ruling BJD could not fill up teachers' posts in different schools," said Bahinipati.

The Congress alleged that the state has one teacher for around 4,000 students and 6,000 schools are operating with only one classroom.

BJP legislature party leader Basanta Panda said the government is hardly concerned about the future of students. He also stressed improvement in the quality of education.

Rubbishing the allegations, the school and mass education minister said the government is in the process of appointing 16,176 teachers in primary schools and 5,434 teachers in secondary schools. "Out of total requirement of 2, 24,330 teachers in primary schools, there are 1,89,569. Similarly, there are 11,000 vacancies in different schools at the secondary level," he said.

The government has engaged 3,288 persons as part-time teachers in sports, music and art disciplines in upper primary schools having more than 100 students.

Over 3,455 teachers are engaged in teaching different languages, official sources said.

To meet the huge trained teachers' requirement, the government has increased the certified teachers training seats from 1,140 to 1,628 and B Ed from 3,200 to 6,400, the minister said.

Besides, the state government has upgraded six district research centres into district institution of education and training (DIET) centres.

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