

# At least 500 KGBV employees of Jharkhand to be terminated

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RANCHI: District commissioners of all the 24 districts of state issued dates for establishment committee meeting to be convened for removal of the striking employees Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas on Wednesday.

The Jharkhand Education Project Council had set up a deadline of October 17 for the employees of KGBVs who are on strike for the last few days to return on work which was later increased to 12 noon, October 18.

At least 50% of the total protesting employees failed to report on duty before the set deadline following which the DCs would terminate them from work as per the direction of JEPC.

There are 203 KGBVs across the state all of which have three categories of employees and teachers. The first category includes such staff including teachers, cooks, security persons and accountants recruited exclusively for KGBVs. The second category is of regular teachers deputed to KGBVs and the third are the employees appointed on hourly basis.

Of these the employees protesting are only those who were appointed exclusively for KGBVs. JEPC project director, Mukesh Kumar said, "There are at least three to five employees in every KGBV who were recruited solely for these schools making the maximum number of such employees around 1000. Of these, 500 have failed to report to duty under the set deadline."

As these employees were recruited on the district level, DCs have been given the power to terminate their duty. "The DCs have to call an establishment committee meeting in which proceedings to terminate these employees would be initiated. All the DCs will be calling a meeting within 2-3 days as per the dates set by them after which these employees would be terminated," Kumar said.

The protesting employees are demanding a 25% increase in the honorarium being given to them. However, the JEPC director said that they are already being paid up to Rs. 20,000 which is the highest upper limit set by the centre for KGBV employees.

"Despite them being paid at par with employees of any other state, we have decided on humanitarian grounds that an increase of 10% will be given to them from the state funds. All the employees who resumed work within the set deadline will be getting the increased honorarium immediately," said the director.

Meanwhile, the deadline set for the protesting JEPC employees who were demanding honorarium at par with the sixth pay commission also ended on Wednesday. Kumar said, "Those employees in state cadre who did not join today will be terminated on Thursday while the termination of district cadre employees would be done by DCs."