ST Commission head resigns

Chequered journey of ST Commission

The fate of the Commission of Inquiry for Scheduled Tribes has been left in limbo with the acceptance of the resignation of its chairman S. Chellappa, a retired IAS officer, by Telangana government last week. Going by number of extensions that the commission got since its constitution in March 2015, it was quite a chequered journey for the three-member panel headed by Mr. Chellappa, which was supposed to submit its report within six months when it was constituted but the term was extended in September 2015, March 2016 and September 2016. When the term was over in January 2017, the government gave further extensions of one year each in 2017 and 2018. Incidentally, the last extension lapsed on January 31, 2019, when Mr. Chellappa quit office. No one is sure about the fate of the commission whose terms of reference, among others, included inquiry into the socio-economic status of Valmiki Boyas and Khaithi Lambadas.

Home front important for working president

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao is a normal husband despite occupying a position that everyone envies, and perhaps a doting one too like most husbands. When the ‘boss’ at home wants to speak to him he would rather do it simply or else he too has to wait till she decides the time. During the recent Assembly session, Mr. Rama Rao got a text message from his wife who wanted to speak to him urgently. Since he was inside the Assembly he called her up only after coming to the TRS Legislative Party office. However, the call was not taken. An amused Mr. Rama Rao jocularly remarked: “My wife doesn’t seem to watch the Assembly proceedings.” When a journalist remarked that maybe she was busy, KTR said: “Or may be she feels I am jobless” as a couple of people around him burst into laughter.

80 per cent are contract lecturers

The Intermediate exams which commenced on February 27 have an unusually high rate of contract lecturers on duty. The Intermediate Board had been engaging the services of contract lecturers for invigilation and valuation of answer scripts due to shortage of government junior lecturers. Their strength, however, did not exceed 50% till last year. This time, their strength swelled to 80%. One might wonder why? After posting all the regular junior lecturers on duties, the Board decided to meet the balance requirement with contract lecturers and teachers of model schools in 60:40 ratio. Hence, the 3,800 contract lecturers in the State got the lion’s share.

TS methodology to be replicated in Jharkhand

The success of public distribution system of the State has become a role model for the country thanks to the phone monitoring methodology adopted by the government to improve efficiency and check leakages. A research team of the World Bank’s Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund has decided to help the Jharkhand government in the application of the phone monitoring system for implementation of the Central Government’s heavily subsidised wheat and rice distribution system there. (N. Rahul, R. Ravikanth Reddy and M. Rajeev)