

## **HC tells APPSC to complete FSOs recruitment in 3 months**

Despite repeated assurances of cracking down on illegal sale of fruits ripened with chemicals, authorities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana did nothing except issuing GOs for appointment of food safety officers (FSOs) and related staff, the bench of acting Chief Justice Dilip B Bhosale and Justice P Naveen Rao said on Wednesday .

While the AP government placed before the court its GO for recruitment of FSOs, Telangana said that it issued its GO in March itself. The court found that the number of FSOs to be recruited by the two states is less than 10 percent of those in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Keeping this in view, the HC bench, which suo motu took up the case of food adulteration and chemical ripening a year ago as a PIL petition, directed AP and Telangana governments to double the number of staff in the near future. This was because, as per the statistics provided by amicus curiae S Niranjan Reddy , the states were far behind other states in having adequate staff to deal with food adulteration.

The bench on Monday summoned AP's medical and health department principal secretary to explain when they would aspire to reach the level of the neighbouring states.

AP's principal secretary Poonam Malakondaiah appeared before the bench on Wednesday and submitted the GO issued to appoint 26 food safety officers, 9 assistant food controllers, 13 office superintendents and 13 junior assistants cum data entry operators. The bench asked the AP public service commission to complete the recruitment within three months. Even after recruiting these staff, the state of affairs in AP would hardly improve, the amicus curiae said. Telangana counsel merely mentioned its recruitment GO without spelling out the time-frame for their actual induction.