

Over 68,000 posts lying vacant in six paramilitary forces

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) together account for more than half of the posts lying vacant in six paramilitary forces.

While there are 68,888 vacancies in the forces, which also includes CRPF, BSF, ITBP and Assam Rifles, 34,959 belong to CISF and SSB. Of this, 2,847 vacancies belong to posts manned by women.

The SSB, which guards the 1,751-km long porous Indo-Nepal border and the 699-km Indo-Bhutan border, has 19.43% of its posts remaining vacant. This force has the highest percentage of vacancies compared to the other forces.

According to the latest figures released by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 18,753 posts out of a sanctioned strength of 96,514 are vacant in the SSB, which is tasked with preventing smuggling and thwarting attempts by terrorists to cross the border.

Sources said there is an increase of around 5,000 to 6,000 vacancies in January 2015 in SSB and attribute it to the rise in sanctioned strength as well as retirements. There may not be corresponding recruitments, but they said enough personnel are on the job.

The CISF, which had 5,737 vacancies as on January 2015, also saw a rise in the number of vacancies to 16,206. The percentage of vacant posts in the CISF, which has a sanctioned strength of 1.43 lakh, is 11.30%.

The CRPF, the biggest paramilitary force in the country with a sanctioned strength of 3.14 lakh, has the highest number of vacancies at 19,067, but its percentage is low compared to those in position. The force, which spearheads the anti-Naxal operations and deployment in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast, also saw a rise in the number of vacancies from 16,710 recorded in January last year.

However, the BSF, which had 25,749 vacancies in January 2015, had urgently filled up posts in the past months and now has only 6,103 vacant posts.