

Lack of SI, Constable hits prohibition drive in state of Bihar

Patna: Faced with an onerous task of ensuring strict implementation of prohibition in the state, the excise department is in a tizzy due to huge shortage of manpower.

If sources are to be believed, over 1,144 positions of inspectors, sub-inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors and constables are lying vacant in excise police. "At least 26 positions for inspectors, 136 for SIs, 117 for ASIs and 865 for constables are yet to be filled," the sources added.

Even though the state government had announced prohibition in November last year, it took no initiative to strengthen the department. As a result, the excise and prohibition department is finding it difficult to carry out its duties.

Sources said a written exam would be held on July 31 for the selection of constables in excise police. They said 117 positions of ASIs and 41 positions for SIs would be filled up through promotion. For inspectors, 12 positions would be filled up through examination conducted by Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) and 14 through departmental promotions. The state excise police have a sanctioned strength of 87 inspectors, 280 SIs, 246 ASIs and 1,171 constables.

Sources said the department also tried to hire retired security personnel on contract for six months to meet the urgent need, but in vain. Despite advertising for three times, only 35 retired personnel evinced interest to join the work. Due to poor response, the officials later scrapped the plan.

"We have sent the requirement to Staff Selection Commission and police recruitment board of the state," said assistant excise commissioner-cum-public relation officer of the department O P Mandal. He added that the authorities concerned would soon initiate process to fill up the vacant posts.

Mandal, however, said the recruitment process would take at least 10 months. "The recruitment of constables might start from September or October, but the other positions would be filled later," Mandal added.