

Quota in hiring of asst dist attorneys faces judicial test

The Punjab and Haryana high court has served a notice on the Punjab government on a petition challenging the reservation formula adopted to fill 80 posts of assistant district attorneys (ADAs).

The petitioner's counsels Gurminder Singh and RPS Bara had argued that of the 80 posts, only 23 had been marked in the general category. The posts in general category were reduced on the grounds that 17 posts were backlog vacancies in reserved categories.

“Even if the backlog vacancies are deducted from the advertised 80 posts, at least 31 posts have to be earmarked in the general category,” the counsels said.

They argued that in a direct recruitment, not more than 50 per cent posts can be filled in reserved categories. The court was also told that the petitioner's rank in the merit list is 25 against 23 advertised posts in general category.

Seeking response from the government by August 23, the HC bench of justice Jaswant Singh said appointment for one post of ADA be kept in abeyance till further orders.

The petitioner also challenged the method adopted by the government in calculating backlog posts, stating that only those posts can be called backlog posts which were not filled due to non-availability of suitable candidates.