

4,000 hired staff left in the lurch

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Patna: With the state government completely banning liquor across the state on Tuesday, around 4,000 people hired to run liquor shops by state-owned Bihar State Beverages Corporation Limited (BSBCL) have become jobless. A large number of them had resigned their private sector jobs for the contract government job offered by the corporation. Several of them have become 'homeless' too as they vacated their rented accommodation to work in other districts.

For running 655 IMFL shops across the state, BSBCL needed around 800 shop managers, 2,800 data entry operators and programmers and 2,000 delivery boys. Hiring of data operators and programmers was done with the help of Beltron. The corporation had till now given joining letters to 491 shop managers-cum-accountants, 349 shop managers-cum-programmers, 349 programmers, 664 data entry operators and around 300 delivery boys.

Of them, at least 264 shop managers, 545 data entry operators and 300 delivery boys had joined their duty, according to official data. Candidates even with engineering, MCA and BCA degrees had joined the job of programmers and operators. Programmers were offered a salary of Rs 13,900, while operators were to be paid Rs 10,072 per month.

Dhananjay Kumar Gupta, a resident of Phulwarisharif, had taken admission in a technical course in Pune, Maharashtra, in August last year under a state government scheme to encourage technical skill development among youths. He was being paid a monthly stipend of Rs 3,000 by the state government and the course fee of around Rs 1.2 lakh was also to be borne by the government. For the BSBCL job, he left placement opportunity in Pune.

Another youth Kundan Kumar said he was working with Wipro Infotech in Patna, but resigned his job in January to join job with BSBCL. Ruing his plight, he said, "I joined as programmer at Muzaffarpur, while earlier I was living in Patna for the last 10 years in a rented room which I vacated a few days back. Now, I am both jobless and homeless," he said. Ruby Kumari, a resident of

Chandmari Road, was hired as data operator. She resigned her private job fetching Rs 7,000 a month. "I am shattered," she said.

Another contract employee, Pushpanjali Sinha, a resident of Fatuha, said she quit her job of teacher in a private school with a salary of Rs 6,000 on February 28 and joined the new job the very next day. Now, she is worried about meeting both ends meet.

BSBCL managing director Mithilesh Mishra said the jobs offered were on contract basis for 11 months and it was clearly mentioned that any government decision would be acceptable to them. He said the official notification is being sent to all the hired candidates that their services are no longer required due to complete ban on liquor. "We are following the government orders," he said.