

3,094 GP officer posts to be created

BHUBANESWAR: In view of the increasing developmental works executed through gram panchayats, the State Government has decided to create another 3,094 panchayat executive officer posts.

The posts will be filled through promotion of panchayat secretaries.

Apart from monitoring the execution of various welfare programmes, the panchayat executive officers will maintain panchayat accounts.

A long-standing demand of the panchayat secretaries will be fulfilled as they will become Government servants.

Of the 6,234 GPs in the State, nearly 3,500 posts of village-level worker (VLWs) or gram sevaks are lying vacant.

At one point of time the Panchayati Raj Department seriously tried to bring the village agriculture worker (VAW) into its fold and fill up the vacancies.

However, this could not materialise following opposition from the Agriculture Department.

The Government has also decided to appoint at least two gram sevaks in each of the 3,672 GPs of 19 districts covered under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

The scheme is implemented in over 33,000 villages. However, the gram sevaks will be given a consolidated salary of Rs 2,000 a month.

Presently, 2,100 out of the 3,762 GPs do not have panchayat secretaries.

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