

FSSAI seeks new talent as Govt notifies FSSAI Recruitment Regulations

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The government formally notified the first set of Recruitment Regulations of FSSAI in the official gazette recently. A few weeks ago, the government sanctioned 500 new posts to strengthen the functioning of the country's apex food regulator.

Pawan Kumar Agarwal, chief executive officer, FSSAI, said, "These two measures, coupled with the recent approval extending the benefit of government housing to regular employees of FSSAI should resolve the issue of shortage of staff in the authority, which was thus far managing its affairs through deputations and contractual staff."

He added that the manpower sanctioned for FSSAI was raised from 356 to 824 in August 2018, and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Recruitment and Appointment) Regulations, 2018 would now pave the way for recruitment of personnel on regular basis to the authority.



Agarwal elaborated that a large number of the newly created posts are for technical functions, particularly of technical officers (255 posts) and assistant director technical (60 posts), where the staff shortage is particularly acute. In addition, 74 new posts of Central food safety officers have been created. With this, FSSAI would now be able to handle food safety inspections and enforcement for Central licensees directly instead of entirely depending on the states. Meanwhile, the Recruitment Regulations of FSSAI now allow direct recruitment up to the level of director as a lateral entry. Further, keeping in view the requirement in the technical areas.

"The concept of consolidated remuneration, based on the years of experience for posts in IT and specialised cadre has been introduced to attract the best talent pool of candidates available in the market. A provision to hire services of consultants from the open market where special skills and competencies, not covered in the recruitment regulations are not available, has also been incorporated. The levels of posts have been defined to ensure proper promotional avenues, under the rules," said an official statement released by the apex food regulator. Further, to have a modern and robust food control system, the government has sanctioned to create posts for new functional areas like social and behavioral change communication, training and capacity building and new technologies. Moreover, FSSAI has been able to persuade state governments to strengthen and augment the food safety mechanism and several state governments have increased recruitment of food safety personnel in recent months.

The official statement from FSSAI added, "To fuel its future growth, FSSAI is looking to recruit well-qualified, energetic and dedicated candidates who are ready to serve the country. A career in FSSAI means not only a steady job with adequate financial benefits, unparalleled career potential and personal growth, but also an opportunity to contribute to ensuring safe and wholesome food for 130 crore citizens of the country."

“Candidates would be selected through a rigorous and transparent process, and an advertisement would be circulated inviting applications shortly. Candidates selected in FSSAI will draw basic salary, along with dearness allowance, transport allowance, house rent allowance, etc., as per the Seventh CPC,” it added. The statement said, “Along with basic pay and other allowances, reimbursement of expenses for newspaper, telephone charges, etc. as per eligibility shall be applicable. Medical facilities for self and dependents under CGHS/ CSMA shall also be applicable.” Selected candidates will be governed by the defined contribution New Pension Scheme (NPS), in addition to the benefit of gratuity,” it added.

The FSSAI CEO thanked the government for extending its support in augmenting the manpower of FSSAI and notifying the Recruitment Regulations. Simultaneously, he invited aspirants with drive, initiative and requisite qualifications to become a part of FSSAI.