

# Staff needed 525. On rolls 25

**Aloke Chatterjee**

ahplletters@hindustantimes.com

**PATNA:** Minister for social welfare Parveen Amanullah is an executive in some hurry! If she could have helped it, the department would be responsive right away. But it's not.

"The rot of 23 years, cannot be cleaned up and geared to respond in just 12 months," is how she recorded her obvious frustration over the department she presides on Friday.

But, she has not been inactive either. The social welfare department has suspended 33 employees, initiated departmental proceedings against 42, punished 16, sought clarification from 58 and lodged FIR against three on charges of indulging in irregularities.

She added: "Departmental proceedings against the principal of Rajkiya Netrahean

Uchcha Vidyalaya, Kadam Kuan, Patna, is also underway." Admitting that the department was woefully shortchanged as regards staff, she dropped a stunner, when she added that, "There are just 25 staff working against a sanctioned strength of 525." She added though, that recruitments were underway and within two months everything would be in place to attend to issues assailing poor sections, especially SCs and STs.

"Recruitments are also underway to man the State Society for Rehabilitation of Ultra Poor in Patna, under the Mukhyamantri Bhikshavritti Nivaran Yojana," she said, adding "It is expected to become functional within two months. She said beggars would be given vocational training at the rehabilitation centres and be linked to jobs.



■ **Parveen Amanullah**

The department would shortly launch open shelters for children in need in urban and semi-urban areas at 11 places in the state, including Patna. Such shelters would be opened at Patna Junction, Patna City and bus stand (in Patna), Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Chapra, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Purnia, Saharsa and Munger, the minister informed.

"In an effort to ensure complete compliance, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension, Indira Gandhi Widow Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme,

Lakshmbai Social Security Pension Scheme and Bihar Disability Pension Scheme have been brought under the purview of Right To Service Act," Amanullah stated.

"Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Suraksha Yojana, the department had disbursed ₹23 crore among 10.66 lakh this year," the minister said, adding under Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana, ₹35.24 crore was distributed among 79,966 beneficiaries.

The department has also set up State Child Protection Society to ensure child protection programmes, she stated. Amanullah said, although the number of physically challenged persons was estimated to be around 20 lakh in Bihar, the department has been able to cover only five lakh so far as per Bihar Disabled Person (equal opportunity, protection of rights and total participation) Amended Rules, 2010).