

## **PSI posts vacant, state holds back exam for two years**

Pune: With over two years having passed since the Maharashtra Public Service Commission conducted examinations for the post of police sub-inspector, hundreds of aspirants remain on hold.

Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) last conducted the exam in 2014. However, despite several vacancies in the state police, the government has failed to request an exam to fill up the posts. Many have now crossed the age limit to attempt the test. On an average, over 80,000 aspirants attempt the exam.

According to MPSC chairman VN More, since 2011, an average 400 to 500 police sub-inspector (PSI) posts have been vacant. "However, the vacancies vary from year to year. Several posts are vacant due to retirement and many of them haven't been filled for years. We conduct the exam based on the requirement put forward by the state government. The government does its own stocktaking exercise and gives us a consolidated number of vacant posts that need to be filled on priority. Police inspectors retire every year so there are vacancies generated but it's entirely up to the government to take a call."

In 2013 and 2014, MPSC conducted the examination for over 2,000 posts and several posts were filled at the time. "After 2014, no exam was conducted because the government has not given us any requirement. Once the requirement reaches us, we will start the procedure. For the current year, if we are given a requirement we shall conduct the exam on priority basis."

Meanwhile, aspirants continue to wait for the advertisement announcing the exam. Rakesh Jadhav, a candidate from Solapur studying in Pune said, "I have been preparing for the MPSC exam since the past four years. I came to Pune only to study for the exam. I did appear for the exam in 2014 but I couldn't clear it so I decided to give the exam another shot."

Another candidate Avinash Kher has made several calls, even visited the commission's Mumbai office but to no avail. "Officials told us that the exam would be conducted but did not commit to a date. We cannot wait forever for an announcement. We have already wasted two years without a definite response." Competitive exam coaching class owner Siddharth Kumar said, "When R R Patil was the state home minister, as many as 1,800 posts for PSIs were filled by the state government after which the number of candidates attempting the examination from rural parts of

Maharashtra increased tremendously. That was the highest recruitment for the post conducted in several years."

In 2014, MPSC announced an exam for 260 posts and recruited as many candidates. Another aspirant Sudhanshu Rawat said, "When the results of the 2014 exam were declared, MPSC had stated that new announcements for PSI posts would be made the following year but even after two years we continue to wait."

With no signs of an exam, a student representation submitted that the age limit to appear for the exam be increased by five years. Kiran Limbhare, who represented the students, said, "The age limit was finally increased from 28 years to 33 years last month and accordingly the rule was changed. Nevertheless, the basic question of conducting the exam still remains."