

4 years on APPSC Group-I aspirants still await Jobs

HYDERABAD: Bifurcation blues continue to haunt 606 candidates, who appeared for the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission's (APPSC) Group-1 exam in the year 2012, and despite the Supreme Court order, the commission has failed to re-conduct the exam till now.

Now, with erstwhile AP separated into two states, conducting fresh examinations has only increased further. "Out of 314 posts, nearly 140 are in Telangana. We are unable to re-conduct the exam due to constitutional issues as the Telangana public service commission wants to conduct separate exam for their posts," said Uday Bhaskar, chairman of the APPSC.

However, candidates squarely blame the APPSC for their miseries and urge the commission to resolve the issue at the earliest. In fact, a group of 80 candidates, on Saturday, held a protest in front of the APPSC office in Nampally to voice their demand.

Trouble started in 2013 when the APPSC withheld the results of the 606 students, who had completed their interview process - after clearing the prelims and mains exams in 2012 - for recruitment to 314 Group-I posts. This was after two students dragged the commission to court over six "ambiguous questions" in the prelims exam. While the Supreme Court, the same year, directed the APPSC to reconduct the exams, that has not happened till date, thus jeopardizing the careers of hundreds of candidates.

AND, WAIT GOES ON

▶ No. of posts - 314

▶ No. of candidates interviewed - 606

▶ Notification issued in 2011

▶ Exam conducted in 2012

▶ Interviews held in 2013

▶ Case still pending with Supreme Court

"The marks secured have to be recounted from the answer books written by all the candidates on the basis of 144 questions after deleting these six questions and their answers. Those who succeed after revaluation will be eligible for the main examination and the APPSC will hold the main examination de novo (afresh) thereafter," the SC order had stated.

With no development thereafter, aspirants are running from pillar to post to secure jobs that have been eluding them for four long years. "I had come to Hyderabad five years ago for this exam. I was supposed to get my family here after getting a Group-1 post. However, even after five years, I am not able to bring my wife and two children to Hyderabad as my current salary is insufficient to bear their expenses," rued Praveen Kumar, one of the interviewed candidates.

Due to long delay, candidates say now re-writing the exam would be an Herculean task. "Even if you ask well-established IAS officers to take their main examination again, it's going to be impossible. We cannot go back to the grind, study the syllabus and re-write the exam," said V Jagadeeshwar, a candidate.