

## **Dy Collector jobs: Woes of PH candidates continue**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: WRONG interpretation of the Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) orders and the erroneous decisions of the Government are torpedoing the chances of Physically Handicapped (PH) candidates from being recruited from the current PSC rank list of Deputy Collectors.

The special rules for the appointment of Deputy Collectors provides that 1/5 of the substantive posts in the permanent cadre shall be filled by direct recruitment. That means out of the 78 Deputy Collectors, 16 must be from the direct recruitment stream. However, based on a proposal to amend the ratio between direct recruitment and promotees with reference to the total cadre strength of Deputy Collectors and Deputy Collectors (Higher grade), the Government filled up nine vacancies with Tahslidars promoted as DCs. By rule, they were supposed to have been reinstated as Tahslidars as their promotions were notional. Instead, the Government created nine supernumerary posts.

Though KAT found the action ultra vires, the Government is reluctant to correct its decision. Nine candidates from the Deputy Collector (DC) rank list had approached the KAT citing 20 per cent direct recruitment rule as per the KS & SSR. They won the case for nine posts available. Actually, the Kerala Government should have given them direct DC posting. The government order says there will not be any more fresh vacancies reported until these nine people get regular posting. In fact, the Government did a mistake, leaving the handicapped community to suffer.

In addition, previously, 660 promotion appointments done by the Revenue Department and 4:1 ratio was not followed. “Whenever a ratio or percentage is fixed for different methods of recruitment /appointment to a post, the number of vacancies to be filled up by candidates from each method shall be decided by applying the fixed ratio or percentage to the cadre strength of the post to which the recruitment/transfer is made and not to the vacancies existing at that time,” points out K Madhu, who tops the PH category in the current list.

Though the Revenue section in the Secretariat claims that presently there is no vacancy for Deputy Collector post from the Direct Recruitment category, six vacancies will be there by June 30. However, the government has to report them to the PSC.

Also, the PSC should implement the Government of India office memorandum and Supreme Court order on filling the PH quota under the roster system of 1:34:67.

Three Deputy Collectors, Shanavas, Sajithbabu and Abdul Nazar, have been recommended for conferring IAS. One Deputy Collector is already conferred with IAS - Sureshbabu, who will retire in November this year. While one Deputy Collector, Sudheerbabu, retired in May, another DC, Ramachandran, is to retire this month.

This opens up six vacancies, which will have to be adjusted by direct recruitments. Currently, there are 16 direct recruits working as Deputy Collectors. That means six vacancies are ready.