

HC ASKS GPSC TO ALLOW MORE CANDIDATES TO TAKE MAIN EXAMINATION

Gujarat High Court on Friday directed the Gujarat Public Service Commission to allow candidates 25 times more than the total number of vacancies advertised by it to appear for the main examination. The GPSC had earlier decided to call six times the candidates for the main exam for 460 vacancies. The order has lifted the clouds hanging over the main examination for the recruitment of class-1 and class-2 officers in the state government.

The court was hearing a group of petition filed by candidates who had appeared in the preliminary examination taken by GPSC but had challenged the grace marks awarded by the commission for 28 wrong questions asked in that exam. "The state government and the GPSC agreed to call 25 times candidates of the total vacancies as per court direction," said Dipak Shukla, counsel for GPSC. Over 50 candidates had challenged a move by the recruitment body to grant 40 grace marks against 28 wrong questions. They sought that the examinations should be cancelled and number of candidates should be increased to 25 times the total vacancies for the main examination.

They sought examination be cancelled because the papers-setters and printers of the GPSC had made mistakes in the question papers. According to the petitioners, five types of errors were committed by authority. The mistakes included wrong answers for multiple choice questions, translation errors, spelling mistakes and confusing questions and their options. The candidates further submitted that, there are 55 more questions and its answers which were erroneous in addition to 28 questions admitted by GPSC, for which it awarded 40 grace marks.

Demanding increase in number of candidates for the exam, the petitioners claimed that GPSC should increase intake of candidates, otherwise the errors made by the authority would affect them. The petitioners have dropped their demand for cancellation of exam. Accordingly Advocate General and GPSC made a statement that they would call 11,500 candidates instead of 2760 candidates for the main exam. The preliminary examination was held in October, 2014, and 2.39 lakh candidates had appeared in it.