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Punjab and Haryana HC to decide cops' recruitment

CHANDIGARH: Recruitment of Haryana police constables that had hit the headlines after three aspirants had died in June during physical screening test (PST) has now come under judicial scanner for alleged technical glitch in recording of timings of race in bio-metric device leading to disqualification of thousands of candidates from selection process.

The Punjab and Haryana high court, which has been flooded with the petitions filed by hundreds of candidates alleging fault in the PST result declared on August 8, would decide their fate on Friday.

Hundreds of candidates had alleged that they were disqualified in PST by Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) despite completion of race by them on time.

While conducting the PST, the HSSC had adopted Radio Frequency Identification Device (RIFD) and the entire process contained five stages---registration of candidate with taking bio-metric thumb impression, capturing photograph, issuing a microchip and chest number--- capturing the photograph at the start point--capturing the photograph at mid-point--capturing the photograph at end point through CCTV installed at start point, mid-point and finish point and de-registration of the candidate by taking thumb impression through bio-metric device, capturing photograph, taking back the chip and chest number. A male candidate was to complete a test distance of 5 km in a qualifying time of 25 minutes and for ex-serviceman, test distance was 2.5 km to be completed in 13 minutes.

Main grouse of most of the candidates now is that even though they had participated in the test distance of 5 km and qualified the same within the prescribed time, they have been declared unqualified.

HSSC, however, has conceded the fact that most of the candidates had completed the race within time but they were disqualified because they failed to complete final stage that includes de-registration of the candidate and by giving his thumb impression through bio-metric device on completing the race.

Considering large number of petitions raising similar issue, the HC has considered a petition filed by one Mohit Kumar of Hisar as a "test case" and directed the HSSC to permit him to view the video footage as regards final stage of PST so as to satisfy the petitioner and to substantiate the stand taken by HSSC.

In pursuance to HC directions, petitioner Mohit Kumar watched the video footage of selection process on Thursday evening at HSSC office in Panchkula now a final decision on the fate of such candidates would be decided by the HC on Friday.

In July 2015, HSSC had invited applications for recruitment of 5000 posts of male constables (General Duty). The selection process includes PST followed by knowledge test, physical measurement test and interview-cum-personality test. The PST was conducted from June 15 to July 23, 2016 at Kurukshetra and result was declared on August 8.

What is the issue?

The PST contained five stages including registration of candidate with taking bio-metric thumb impression, capturing photograph, issuing a microchip and chest number---capturing the photograph at the start point--capturing the photograph at mid-point--capturing the photograph at end point through CCTV installed at start point, mid-point and finish point and fifth and final stage of de-registration of the candidate by taking thumb impression through bio-metric device, capturing photograph, taking back the chip and chest number. The government is taking the claims that despite completing race in prescribed time, the candidates failed to clear fifth stage of test.