

The Tribune

Rap for Haryana, UPSC returns list for IAS selection

The Union Public Service Commission has censured the Haryana government for its move to push the names of relatives of a politician and a bureaucrat for selection to the IAS by concealing a stay on “finalising the selection” by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

The Chief Secretary’s office has received a communication returning all applications for the selection of state-cadre officers for appointment to the IAS. Earlier, in July, the UPSC had returned three of the five nominations, including those of Cabinet Minister Ram Bilas’ daughter and wife of the CM’s Principal Secretary and a senior town planner, raising queries over lapses, incomplete ACR records, overwriting, use of correcting fluid, etc. But it gave the candidates another chance to make corrections and return the applications.

In the meantime, one Lajpat Rai challenged the state’s selection list in CAT, alleging nepotism and favouritism.

The Chief Secretary’s office, however, sent the list again after removing the discrepancies, but withheld the information that the matter had been stayed on August 3. The UPSC communication received by the Chief Secretary’s office lists how the state government did not mention the court/CAT case and asks for a fresh proposal to be submitted “only after the order of the tribunal is either vacated or any further order is passed in this regard”.

The panel of names sent included the names of Dr Asha Sharma, daughter of Education Minister Ram Bilas Sharma; Dr Sonia Trikha, wife of the CM’s Principal Secretary Rajesh Khullar, and Dr Rakesh Talwar, an SMO posted in Raj Bhawan. The other two names are that of Gurmeet Kaur, a senior town planner, and Parmeshwar Mehra, an officer in the Excise & Taxation Dept.