

Greater Kashmir

KAS aspirants demand increase in upper age limit

At a time when Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has enhanced age limit for IAS aspirants from JK to 37 years, Public Service Commission (PSC) has reduced it to 35 years for KAS and related services, ‘an injustice’ to aspirants of premier gazette services of the state.

Given that state government increased the age limit of all government services from 37 years to 40 years in 2014 and due to not so conducive situation in Kashmir resulting in intermittent combined KAS exams, aspirants said reduction in age limit is sheer injustice with them.

“This year the KAS exam will be held after the gap of three years, and I was eagerly waiting for it as I have been preparing since 2014 for the exam but it was surprising that instead of enhancing the age limit, they have reduced it making me ineligible,” said an aspirant.

He said like him many others have crossed the age bar for being eligible for the exams.

The aspirants said if not increasing it to 40 years, the state government should at least keep the upper age limit to 37 years. However, they said taking into consideration the situation of the state and the rate of unemployment age bar should be raised to 40 years.

It is surprising that while Union Government has kept the upper age limit for JK candidates 37 years, state government instead of increasing it to 40 years it reduced the age limit to 35 years.

It also goes in contrast with state’s own policy on employment, while they enhance age limit for all services to 40 years, they reduced it for the KAS to 35.

PSC could not conduct KAS exams in 2014 owing to the floods and after that the institution was defunct for a longer period of time as the post of PSC Chairman remained vacant.

The submission of the application forms for the KAS has been kept open given the prolonged internet gag in Kashmir.

"Government should take a considerate view in the issue and relax the upper age limit upto 40 years," another candidate said.

However, when contacted, Chairman Public Service Commission, Lateef -u-Zaman Deva said the KAS exam was conducted as per the rules set by the state government.

"We conduct KAS and other exams as per government rules. We have no role in giving relaxation for age limit. It is upto the government," he said.