

The Times of India

PH candidates anguished at KPSC's apathy over considering appointments

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The physically handicapped (PH) candidates are anguished over the long delay in getting the advice for their appointments from Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC) despite making it to the rank lists for various posts. Two years lapsed, yet KPSC has not considered the appointment of PH candidates including a visually challenged despite the Courts ruling in their favour. The PH candidates have called for implementing the Supreme Court (SC) directive in the roster of appointments after annulling or amending the existing state government orders.

Recently, a PH blind candidate for the post Municipal Secretary in the rank list was turned down by KPSC without considering for appointment. However, the high court ruled in favour of the disabled candidate and PSC had been directed to consider PH backlog from 1996 onwards and quashed special recruitment related state government orders. The High Court ordered KPSC to give appointment to the PH blind candidate within two weeks. Despite that, the KPSC had not taken any action following which the Court warned of contempt proceedings against KPSC. To that, KPSC has sought for two months to look into the appointment of the PH blind candidate, sources told TOI.

Now, the high court has given six weeks to KPSC to consider the PH blind candidate's appointment. The law section of our society repeatedly clear all cases in favour of the disabled group and still justice is not delivered, says a PH candidate.

Two years passed since the names of two PH candidates including a visually challenged and an orthopedically challenged figured in the KPSC rank list on 17th Jan 2014 for the post of deputy collectors (DCs) in revenue department, yet they have not been considered for posting. It is despite the Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) and the high court ruling in their favour.

Proposed file for appointment of disabled in the order of 1, 34, and 67 as per the SC directive which was endorsed by former social justice minister reached PSC on March 23 this year, yet it is pending for KPSC remarks. As per this SC directive and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Act, the first direct appointment should go to the blind or visually challenged in

PH category and then the 34th to the orthopedically handicapped in PH category.

"To implement the SC directive, the state government has to cancel of amend the government order which claims to consider the disabled appointment in the order 33, 66 and 99," the PH candidates said.

When contacted, the KPSC officials admit that over 5,400 cases are pending with them, based on the Supreme Court, high court and KAT relating to appointments including backlog vacancies. The officials said, verification is on and it would take some more time to process it.