

## **PSC gives testing times to differently-abled**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: It seems that the Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) has scant regard for the Supreme Court's rulings and law of the land, if one looks at the manner in which it handled the case related to the filling of backlog of vacancies of the PH (Physically Handicapped) candidates.

The Social Justice Department which has called for a remark from the Commission on the issue of filling backlogs of PH candidates in various posts in view of the the Supreme Court directive to implement the 3 per cent quota reserved for them is yet to get a reply from the PSC, which had been sitting on the file for months, while it could have sent a reply within a month.

It has come to light that the Commission member who had been entrusted with the task of looking into the issue had submitted his detailed report in just seven days. But the Commission could not consider the matter in the several sittings since then. However, some of the members who had a prick of conscience over the undue delay demanded in the Commission sitting to make available the details to all the members to avoid further delay.

The Commission also had to make a remark on implementing the roster system of 1, 34, 67 instead of the current 33, 66 and 99 in PH appointments. In this matter too, the Commission could have made its comments without any delay. Now, the members concerned are blaming administrative delays. In fact, Premarajan, one of the members who had been asked by a sub-committee to study the matter in detail and submit the report, had done his job within seven days and sent the matter to the Chairman more than month ago. Then, it was further sent to the Rules Committee of the Commission, which set aside the matter till the other day. In the Commission sitting, some of the members raised the issue and demanded a copy of the report to avoid further delay. However, when contacted, Premarajan told Express that there was no deliberate delay in reporting the matter to the Commission. He pointed out that he had submitted the report within seven days to the Commission.

Interestingly, his view is that PSC had nothing to do with the decision of the Supreme Court directive as it was for the appointing authority - the State Government - to decide on the reservation turn. "On the issue of filling backlog, it is the government's turn to report the cadre strength and other details regarding the PH backlog. On the reservation turn, the

Supreme court's ruling is very clear. In fact, there was no need for the Government to ask for PSC's remarks," Premarajan told Express. Asked why the Commission sat on its report if PSC's remarks was not necessary, his comment was contradictory.

It was the PH candidates' complaint seeking Prime Minister's intervention that set the issue in motion, forcing the Social Justice Department to take note of the Supreme Court ruling on PH quota. As the PSC members themselves have started expressing frustration over its own delay, the issue has been taken note of by the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Premarajan said the PSC's next sitting would most likely to consider the matter and report it to the Government.