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HC for status quo in FDA recruitment

AURANGABAD: The Bombay high court has asked the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to maintain status quo in the matter of recruitment of R&D candidates after several aspirants' applications were rejected despite they being declared eligible earlier.

The aggrieved candidates had approached the Bombay High Court seeking relief against the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) and FDA's decision to out rightly reject their claim.

Ordering a status quo in the matter on August 10, Justice V M Kanade and Justice M S Sonak ordered that "parties shall maintain status quo in respect of all matters. The matters will have to be finally disposed of at the stage of admission. The court has placed entire group of matters (petitions) for final disposal on September 21".

Several aspirants shortlisted for the posts of drug inspectors got a rude shock from the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) and the FDA, who had out rightly rejected those having working experience in research and development (R&D), even if the advertisement floated for recruitment had clearly stated that such candidates would be preferred. As many as five petitions were filed in the high court challenging the decision.

The petitions said "the candidates having R&D experience were allowed to appear for the written examination without any objection and later called for interviews based on their performance".

The advertisement was published by the MPSC on March 31 last year for the posts of 35 drug inspectors and a class II post. While a very large number of candidates had applied for these posts, only 88 qualified for the interviews. Of these candidates, 27 having R&D background were rejected.

The MPSC advertisement floated in newspapers reads: "Preference may be given to candidates having a postgraduate degree or research experience in synthesis and testing of drugs."

However, while handing over the rejection letters to candidates, the MPSC said experience of the shortlisted candidates does not cater to production or testing, the petition pointed out.

A petitioner said that he was shortlisted for interviews after cracking the written test. "I had reached Mumbai with apt preparations, but candidates like me were handed over rejection letters by the MPSC authorities at the interview venue. They said our work experience does not fulfil the required norms," he said.