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Court seeks clarification from govt on constable vacancies

Madurai: The Madras high court bench here has sought clarification from the government on steps taken to fill up vacant posts of police constables in the state.

M Mariyammal, an aspirant from Kovilpatti in Tuticorin, had filed a petition before the bench stating that the state government has not taken steps to fill up existing vacancies for the past four years. The number of vacancies has risen from 14,000 to about 19,000, the petitioner said. The case came up for hearing before Justice S Vimala on Friday.

In 2013, the government had announced that it would conduct a recruitment drive to fill up 14,000 posts of constables. But, no action was taken. Thereafter, the chief minister on August 6, 2014 announced that the 14,623 vacancies would be filled up soon. Then, too, no action was taken to fill up the posts.

Following it, Thangavel, an aspirant, had filed a petition before the Madras high court seeking direction to fill up vacancies. When that petition came up for hearing, the government side said there were 19, 157 vacancies and due to the state assembly election process the government was unable to fill up the posts. The court on March 17 had said that the government should take steps to fill up the posts before June 15, the petitioner said.

"Thousands of women like me are practising to join the police force and serve the state. But, till now, the government has not taken steps to obey the court order," the petitioner said. Demanding to expedite the recruitment process, the petitioner had sent representations to the state's chief and home secretaries, director of general of police and chairman of Tamil Nadu uniform recruitment board on August 1.

The government side said that recruitment was under process, following which the judge directed the government side to get details about the recruitment drive and adjourned the case to September 23.