

TRS govt's silence on Group II exam leaves aspirants anxious

Hyderabad: Lakhs of candidates who applied for the Group II examination and have crossed the age of 34 years are likely to lose an opportunity to write the examination. The age relaxation provided to candidates who applied for the test is set to expire in 20 days and unless the exam is held before July 27, many candidates may be barred from getting a government job.

The Group II examination was scheduled for April this year, but was postponed by the government, which has not announced when the test is to be held to the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC).

The TSPSC issued a notification for Group II exam in December 2015 for filling up 439 posts, including those of municipal commissioners (grade III), assistant commercial tax officers, extension officers in panchayat raj and rural development departments and prohibition and excise sub-inspector posts. Over 5.64 lakh candidates applied for the exams that were supposed to be held on April 23 and 24 this year.

However, the government postponed the exams when some student union leaders and organisations sought additional vacancies. They said that the government announced filling up of only 439 posts when there were thousands of vacancies.

But, the government is yet to sanction additional Group II posts and indications are that any extra post will be notified only after creation of new districts. The government feels there will be clarity on zonal regulations after the new districts are created.

Official sources said that GO (No.329) was issued on July 27, 2015, where the upper age limit for appointment by direct recruitment for various categories of posts was raised by 10 years, from existing 34 years to 44 years. The relaxation was to be in force for one year from the date of issue of GO, which means the one-year period is set to expire on July 27.

Since the recruitment has not been done so far, the government has to issue a fresh GO raising the age limit to 45, as those who attained the age of 44 last year would be 45-year-old now.

"Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has been vindictive of unemployed youth and deliberately postponed Group II examination indefinitely. We

have sought only two months postponement for adding more vacant posts, which do not require any budgetary allocation," R Krishnaiah, LB Nagar MLA and BC Sankshema Sangam leader, told TOI.

"If the government does not announce the dates in one week, we will hold a protest rally with one lakh candidates in the city," he said.

Meanwhile, student leaders alleged that the state government has postponed the examination mainly to benefit coaching centres.

"Many of the unemployed youths sold their land to pay fees to coaching centres and have been preparing for the examinations. Candidates are worried as the upper age relaxation expires by this month-end. We demand the government to extend the age relaxation for two more years or till the time all the existing vacancies are filled," T Ramakrishna, city ABVP president, said.