

Court asks State Bank to explain delay in filling up vacancies in clerical cadre

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Against the 493 vacancies notified in 2014, as many as 204 are yet to be filled up

Thiruvananthapuram, March 10:

The Kerala High Court has asked the State Bank of India to explain within two weeks why clerical vacancies (in accordance with notification CRPD/CR/2014-2015/02 dated May 22, 2014) have not been filled up.

Justice Vinod Chandran admitted a writ petition filed by three candidates who were selected in the written test and had attended subsequent interview for appointment in the bank.

They submitted that the bank had notified 493 vacancies in the clerical cadre in 2014. Around 1.5 lakh candidates had appeared for the written test remitting Rs. 450 as fees.

After the written test, 1,796 candidates were short-listed by the bank from Kerala. Subsequently, the bank recommended 508 of them for appointment.

The petitioners noted that the practice in previous years was to initially publish a list equivalent to the number of vacancies and follow it up with a second to fill in where those selected failed to turn up.

In the present case, against the offer of appointment to 508 candidates in all, only 289 candidates had responded, leaving 204 vacancies to be filled up (against 493 notified). The bank too has confirmed this fact.

Not justified

The petitioners contended that there is absolutely no justification in not filling up the declared vacancies by appointing the candidates already selected.

Such a procedure on the part of the bank is absolutely illegal, arbitrary and violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

The petitioners also pointed out that the maximum age limit for clerical post is 28 and candidates would not be eligible to participate in another selection process.

They prayed that all the vacancies as notified be filled up. Advocate M Saseendran appeared for the petitioners.

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(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated March 11, 2016)

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