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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 4456/2025

VIKASH KUMAR

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Sumit Kumar and Mr. Rahul
Mehra, Advocates.

versus

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA Respondent

Through: Mr. Kamal Mehta, Advocate for
LIC.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRATEEK JALAN

ORDER

% **23.05.2025**

1. Issue notice. Mr. Kamal Mehta, learned counsel, accepts notice on behalf of the respondent.
2. The petition concerns the petitioner's candidature for the post of Apprentice Development Officer in the Life Insurance Corporation of India ["LIC"], for which he had applied pursuant to an advertisement dated 21.01.2023.
3. Mr. Sumit Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that the petitioner applied in the "*LIC Agents Category*", in terms of the eligibility conditions stipulated in Clause 7 of the advertisement. As far as this category is concerned, the selection procedure comprised a written examination ["the main examination"] and an interview. The petitioner participated in the main examination, and scored 126 marks out of 160 marks. He was thereafter called for interview. Although the interview was cancelled at the first instance, he was thereafter called again, and participated in the interview. His grievance is that he has not been appointed, and has not been informed of the reason.



4. The petitioner addressed several Right to Information applications to the respondent. Mr. Kumar draws my attention to a reply dated 24.06.2024, by which he was informed that he had scored 14 marks in the interview, which was below the minimum qualifying marks, and was, therefore, considered ineligible. Mr. Kumar submits that the advertisement contains no stipulation of minimum marks in the interview. In fact, the advertisement provides that the final merit list would be prepared on the basis of the marks obtained in the main examination and the interview, without any separate qualifying marks in each section.
5. The respondent is directed to file a counter affidavit within four weeks. The counter affidavit will deal with the petitioner's allegations with regard to the first interview being cancelled, and also clarify as to when the advertised posts were filled. The respondent is also directed to produce the record relevant to the impugned recruitment before the Court.
6. Rejoinder thereto, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.
7. In view of the *prima facie* case made out by the petitioner, with regard to the imposition of a minimum qualifying mark in the interview, which does not find place in the advertisement, it is made clear that any recruitment under the said advertisement made hereafter will be subject to the result of the present writ petition.
8. Mr. Mehta raises a preliminary objection as to delay in filing of the petition. The said ground may also be taken in the counter affidavit.
9. List on 22.09.2025.

PRATEEK JALAN, J

MAY 23, 2025/SS/JM/