

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

WP(C) No.216 of 2023

Phurailatpam Keny Devi ... Petitioner

-Versus-

Union of India & 2 Ors ... Respondents

BEFORE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.GUNESHWAR SHARMA

03.03.2023

Heard Mr.Kh.Tarunkumar, learned senior counsel assisted by Mr.Stevenson, learned counsel for the petitioner.

It is submitted that an advertisement No.09/2021 issued by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) inviting application for recruitment of certain posts and at Sl.4 (Vacancy No.21070904424 for 34 vacancies for the post of Senior Grade of Indian Information Service in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. At Sl.10, there are two posts with respect to Manipuri Language with the essential qualifications (A) Educational: (i) Degree of a recognized University or Institute; (ii) Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism/Mass Communication from a recognized University/Institution, or Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from a recognized University/Institute; (iii) Candidates must have studied concerned Indian language upto class 10th Class.

Pursuant to the Notification, the petitioner herein submitted her application form with respect to the two posts of Manipuri language.

It is stated that the petitioner obtained Master of Arts Degree in Communication from the University of Hyderabad in the year 2012. It is stated that as per Certificate issued by the University of Hyderabad M.A in communication is recognized as Post Graduate Degree approved by the UGC. As per the mark sheet issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education, with Roll number is 3121757 in the All India Secondary Education Examination 2005, the petitioner also studied Manipuri up to class-X and she has secured Grade of A-2. The petitioner also passed BA from Guru Nanak Dev University in the year 2010.

However, the application of the petitioner was rejected vide notification issued at Annexure A/2 on the ground she lacks essential qualification under (A) (ii). It is submitted that the petitioner have submitted two application forms and she has been allotted Roll Nos.849 and 850.

Mr.Kh.Tarunkumar, learned senior counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner's candidature was wrongly rejected when she possesses the essential criteria as prescribed in the Advertisement and prays that the petitioner may be permitted to appear the interview to be started from 13.03.2023.

It may be noted that this Bench is not the roster Bench to deal this case. However due to non-availability of the roster Bench and being the last working day before the Holi Vacation, this matter is listed before this Court for fixing a date and the Court will be re-opened on 13.03.2022. Mr.Tarunkumar, learned senior counsel submits that on 13.03.2023 this matter may become infructuous and the petitioner will not be able to appear in the examination fixed from 13.03.2023 and prays for passing an interim order in the interest of justice.

Considering the above fact, this Court issues Notice to the respondents.

The petitioner has to take steps for service of notice to the Standing Counsel notified for this High Court on behalf of the respondents.

Mr.I.Somorjit, learned Jr.to Mr.S.Samarjeet, learned standing counsel for the Union of India accepts notice on behalf of the respondent No.3. No formal notice needs be taken with respect to respondent No.3.

In order to avoid all difficulties to the petitioner, this Court directs the respondents to allow the petitioner to appear in the interview to be started from 13.03.2023 with the allotted Roll Nos.849/859, as applicable.

It is made clear that the appearance of the petitioner will be subject to the outcome of this writ petition and that the result may be kept under sealed cover.

Fix on 30.03.2023 before the roster Bench.

Furnish a copy of this order to learned counsel for the parties during the course of the day by WhatsApp or e.mail.

JUDGE

Priyojit