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State Chief Information Commissioner passed historic order

Odisha Public Service Commission to provide interview marks to candidates

Bhubaneswar (08/09):

In a recent judgment the State Chief Information Commissioner has passed historic order directing Odisha Public Service Commission to provide interview marks to a candidate who was not selected for the post of Assistant Teacher in the year 2002, Smt. Minati Rani Mohapatra of Bhadrak District had applied for the post of Assistant Teacher in history subject. As per the advertisement the selection was based on career marks and interview marks. She did not find her name in the list of selected candidates published by Odisha Public Service Commission in June 2002. Unhappy with the result she filed a RTI application in December 2002 before Odisha Public Service Commission asking details of her marks SCored in career assessment and interview. The OPSC provided her career marks but refused to provide her interview marks on the ground that a decision has, been taken by them in December 2002 not to disclose interview marks to the candidates. During hearing before the Information Commission the representative of the Odisha Public Service Commission argued that no interview marks are recorded nor any minimum marks are fixed for selection of candidates in such posts. The OPSC official argued that interview is a test of their personality skil, speaking skill etc, and that in the interview only suitability is decided. The candidates are only given information as to whether they were found suitable or un-suitable. Specific marks are not disclosed nor any merit list published.

In his historic judgment the State Chief Information Commissioner, Shri Manoj Parida stated that such decision of OPSC was contrary to the provisions of the RTI Act. The candidate has a right to know the marks scored in the interview, so that she can improve her performance in the next attempt. Every candidate particularly the candidates who have failed the test have a right to know as to why they could not succeed. The OPSC cannot keep the candidates in dark. In his order Shri Parida has stated that Section 22 of the RTI Act, 2005 supersedes all other Acts and Rules in providing information to applicants. The OPSC has been advised to change its procedure and to provide details regarding marks scored to the candidates.



Saroj Kumar Satpathy
Information Officer