HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA AT HYDERABAD

TUESDAY, THE TWENTY THIRD DAY OF SEPTEMBER
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FIVE

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE APARESH KUMAR SINGH
AND
THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE G.M. MOHIUDDIN

WRIT APPEAL NO: 805 OF 2025

Writ Appeal under clause 15 of the Letters Patent against the order dated 02/04/2025 passed in the W P No 28812 of 2023 on the file of the High Court.

Between:

Azaruddin Degalapadu, S/o Late D.K. Ummar Saheb, Aged about 26years, Occ. Unemployed, R/o. H.No. 14-135, Katike Street, Yemmiganur, Kurnool-518360, Andhra Pradesh.

...APPELLANT

AND

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi- 110016.
2. The Director, The National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Department of Science and Technology, C.G.O. Complex, (7th Floor), DF Block, Salt Lake City, Kolkata -700064.
3. The Regional Director, Staff Selection Commission (Eastern Region), 1st MSO Building (8th Floor), Nizam Palace, 234/4, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020.
4. The Regional Director, Staff Selection Commission (Southern Region) 2nd Floor, EVK Sampath Building, DPI Campus, College Road, Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600006.

...RESPONDENTS

IA NO: 2 OF 2025

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased to suspend the impugned proceedings dt.22.09.2023 and further direct the Respondents to consider the petitioner for the post of Research Assistant in

NATMO and pass such other order or orders as this Honble court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

Counsel for the Appellant : SRI SIRIPURAM KAUMUD

Counsel for the Respondents: SRI B.NARASIMHA SHARMA, Addl.Solicitor General of India, rep., SRI G.VENKATESHWARLU, CENTRAL GOVT. COUNSEL

The Court made the following: JUDGMENT

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SRI APARESH KUMAR SINGH

AND

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE G.M.MOHIUDDIN

WRIT APPEAL No.805 of 2025

JUDGMENT:

Heard Mr. Siripuram Kaumud, learned counsel for the appellant and Mr. B.Narasimha Sharma, learned Additional Solicitor General representing Mr. G.Venkateshvarlu, learned Central Government Counsel for the respondents.

2. By order dated 29.07.2025, learned Central Government Counsel for the respondents was allowed time to seek instructions as to whether any post under the advertisement is still vacant and whether respondent No.2/employer has constituted an Expert Committee to examine the equivalence of these two qualifications. Later when the matter was taken up on 12.08.2025, the following order was passed:

> "Mr. Siripuram Kaumud, learned counsel for the appellant.
>
> Mr. G.Venkateshwarlu, learned Standing Counsel for Central Government appears for respondents No.1 to 4.

Pursuant to the order of this Court dated 29.07.2025, learned counsel for the respondents has received instructions that the posts advertised are still vacant. However, respondent No.2- employer has not constituted any expert committee to examine the equivalence of the two courses *i.e.*, Integrated M.Sc. Earth Sciences and Integrated M.Sc. Applied Geology.

We are of the opinion that in order to determine the question of equivalence of the two courses *i.e.*, Integrated M.Sc. Earth Sciences and Integrated M.Sc. Applied Geology, the opinion of the expert committee would be of assistance. As such, since the posts advertised are still vacant, it would be in the fitness of things that respondent No.2- employer constitutes an expert committee to examine whether the qualification of Integrated M.Sc. Earth Sciences obtained by the appellant from the University of Hyderabad is equivalent to the qualification for the post advertised such as Integrated M.Sc. Applied Geology.

Appellant shall produce the complete curriculum of the courses advertised and the course, which the appellant has pursued before the respondent No.2- employer, for due consideration within a period of one week.

Let such a decision of the expert committee be placed on record within a period of four weeks.

In the meantime, one post of Research Assistant in respondent No.2- organization as notified in the advertisement dated 24.09.2021 be kept vacant.

List the case on 23.09.2025."

3. Today when the matter has been taken up, learned Additional Solicitor General of India has produced the copy

of the Expert Committee Opinion dated 19.09.2205. The Expert Committee was constituted to examine the equivalence of the two qualifications Integrated M.Sc in Earth Sciences which the petitioner claims to have possessed with that of Integrated M.Sc in Applied Geology as notified in the advertisement. The Expert Committee has, after due consideration, opined that the Integrated M.Sc. in Earth Sciences degree of the University of Hyderabad is equivalent to the integrated M.Sc. in Applied Geology. The opinion of the Expert Committee is extracted hereunder:

> "The Expert Committee considered the equivalence of two courses i.e. Integrated M.Sc. in Earth Sciences obtained by the appellant from the University of Hyderabad and Integrated M.Sc. in Applied Geology, which is an essential qualification for the advertised post of Research Assistant in NATMO. On scrutiny of the curriculum, the expert committee opines that -
>
> **The integrated M. Sc. Earth Sciences degree of the University of Hyderabad is equivalent to the Integrated M.Sc. in Applied Geology."**

4. This was the opinion of the University also which granted the equivalent certificate in favour of the appellant on 26.09.2023 at Page No.42, which reads as under:

"**EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that **Mr. AZARUDDIN DEGALAPADU (Reg. No 14IEMS08)** has successfully completed 5-year **Integrated M.Sc. Earth sciences** course in 2019 which subsequently renamed as **IM.Sc. Applied geology** as the course contents of both the programs were similar and geology has been a subject in all years of IMSc Earth Science. Integrated M.Sc. Earth Sciences is equivalent to Integrated MSc Applied Geology."

5. Learned counsel for the appellant submits that in the light of the opinion of the Expert Committee, the respondents may be directed to offer appointment to the post of Research Assistant in the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Kolkata since the posts are also vacant.

6. Learned Additional Solicitor General of India submits that appropriate direction may be issued upon the respondent authority to consider and offer appointment in favour of the petitioner subject to other conditions fulfilled as per the advertisement in question.

7. On consideration of the submissions of learned counsel for the parties and the developments which have taken place

during pendency of the application, we are of the view that the rejection of the candidature of the petitioner on the ground that he did not possess the qualification prescribed under the advertisement for appointment to the post of Research Assistant in the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Kolkata was not proper. The Expert Committee constituted by the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Kolkata pursuant to the directions of this Court has itself opined that the Integrated M.Sc in Earth Sciences degree of the University of Hyderabad is equivalent to the Integrated M.Sc in Applied Geology. In the order dated 12.08.2025, it was taken note that the posts advertised are still vacant. Therefore, the respondents are directed to consider the case for appointment of the petitioner to the post of Research Assistant in the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Kolkata in terms of the advertisement dated 24.09.2021 subject to fulfilment of other prescribed conditions therein within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order. The impugned rejection order dated 22.09.2023 is set aside. The impugned

order dated 02.04.2025 rendered by learned Single Judge in W.P.No.28812 of 2023 is also set aside.

8. The Writ Appeal is, accordingly, allowed. However, there shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous applications pending, if any, shall stand closed.

SD/-K. SRINIVASA RAO
JOINT REGISTRAR
&
SECTION OFFICER

//TRUE COPY//

To,

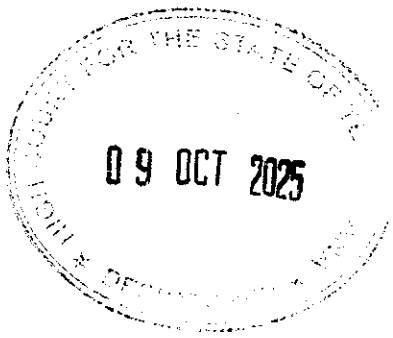
1. The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi- 110016.
2. The Director, The National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, Department of Science and Technology, C.G.O. Complex, (7th Floor), DF Block, Salt Lake City, Kolkata -700064.
3. The Regional Director, Staff Selection Commission (Eastern Region), 1st MSO Building (8th Floor), Nizam Palace, 234/4, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020.
4. The Regional Director, Staff Selection Commission (Southern Region) 2nd Floor, EVK Sampath Building, DPI Campus, College Road, Chennai, Tamil Nadu- 600006.
5. One CC to SRI SIRIPURAM KAUMUD, Advocate. [OPUC]
6. One CC to SRI B.NARASIMHA SHARMA, Addl. Solicitor General of India, High Court for the State of Telangana at Hyderabad.[OPUC]
7. Two CD Copies.

BSK

BS

HIGH COURT

DATED:23/09/2025



JUDGMENT

WA.No.805 of 2025

ALLOWING THE WRIT PETITION
WITHOUT COSTS

9
ASV
9/x