

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH**

**CWP-22288-2014 (O&M)**  
**Date of decision : 11.09.2019**

Hardeep Kaur and others

...Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondent(s)

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JITENDRA CHAUHAN**

Present: Mr. S.S. Hira, Advocate,  
for the petitioners.

Ms. Anju Arora, Addl.A.G., Punjab.

**JITENDRA CHAUHAN, J.**

Prayer in the instant petition, *inter alia*, is for quashing of written examination dated 12.10.2014 and result thereof for recruitment of Sub Inspector (Female) in Punjab Police (District Cadre) dated 14.10.2014 (Annexure P-5) and list of candidates dated 16.10.2014 (Annexure P-7), who had qualified the written test and were called for interviews and the subsequent process of selection.

It is contended that the respondents invited applications for filling up of 110 vacancies of Sub Inspector (Female), Punjab Police vide advertisement dated 12.11.2013 (Annexure P-1). The selection process was initiated in the month of August, 2014, when district-wise list of 20601 candidates was put on the website for conducting physical efficiency test on 02.09.2014 to 23.09.2014 (Annexure P-3). On 07.10.2014 (Annexure P-4), the respondents issued a notice regarding written test of 100 marks to be held at DAV Public School, PAP Complex, Jalandhar Cantt. from 11.00

a.m. to 01.00 p.m. on 12.10.2014.

It is contended that the respondents failed to start the examination on time. Although, the question paper and OMR sheets were distributed at 11.00 a.m. but were taken back after some time. Again, the material was distributed at 11.30 a.m. Further, the invigilator announced correction in the question sheet/text booklet i.e. wrong question as well as wrong answer options and misprinted sentence after more than one hour of the start of the examination. However, as most of the candidates had already marked their answers with a point pen, they could not take benefit of the clarifications. Allegations of mass copying and use of unfair means have also been levelled in the writ petition. It is further asserted that due to ulterior motive, copy of question sheet/text booklet was not given to the candidate at the end of the examination. The question sheet/text booklet along with answer key was also not uploaded on the website as is generally done after such examinations. Further, the result of written test was put on the website on 14.10.2014 (Annexure P-5) without mentioning the marks obtained by the alleged qualified 353 candidates.

On the other hand, learned State counsel submits that due to some problems in handling the huge rush of candidates, it was decided to start the examination late by 30 minutes. However, extra 30 minutes were provided to the candidates. The misprint errors which came to the notice of the authorities were explained on the black-boards of each room. Videography of the examination was also done.

Heard.

In this case, the written test was conducted on 12.10.2014 and

the result was declared on 14.10.2014 of the successful candidates. The result was uploaded on the website, whereas, the result of the unqualified candidates was uploaded on 16.10.2014. However, the details of marks obtained by the qualified 353 candidates were not reflected. The stand of the respondents is that the detailed marks were not uploaded on the website to avoid any prejudice as interview was yet to take place. Even, the detailed marks were not shared with the interview committee. This Court finds favour with the stand taken by the respondents *inasmuch* as the possibility of the interviewers being influenced by the details of marks secured by the candidates in the written examination cannot be ruled out. The complete result was uploaded on the website on 26.11.2014 as soon as the selection process culminated. Further, the declaration of result 2-3 days in advance than the schedule also cannot be said to have prejudiced the case of the petitioners in any manner.

As regards the allegations with regard to mass copying and use of unfair means by the candidates during the examination, it is to be noted that except a bald allegation, there is nothing on record to substantiate the same. Had there been such state of affairs, the petitioners ought to have brought this aspect in the knowledge of higher authorities or the police. No complaint was moved by the petitioners in this regard. It was only after they were declared unsuccessful, such allegations have been levelled.

As far as the misprints and corrections in the question paper are concerned, the same were clarified on the blackboards in all the rooms and it was further made clear that in case of any confusion, the candidates could intimate the same to the Supervisor as also to advert to both versions of the

question papers i.e. English and Punjabi. The videography of the examination was also carried out. Even otherwise, nothing prevented the petitioners to raise their grievances immediately after the examination, however, for the reasons best known to them, no complaint was lodged by any of the petitioners. Thereafter also, the petitioners could have approached the higher authorities for redressal of their grievance. It is only when they have failed to clear the test, such allegations have been levelled which cannot be appreciated in the absence of any material in support thereof.

In view of the above, the instant petition being devoid of any merit, is hereby dismissed.

**11.09.2019***atulsethi***(JITENDRA CHAUHAN)  
JUDGE**

Whether speaking / reasoned :      Yes      No

Whether Reportable :      Yes      No