



WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 01.10.2021

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR.SANJIB BANERJEE, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE P.D.AUDIKEVALU

WP No.21299 of 2021

and WMP Nos.22539, 22541 and 22543 of 2021

S.Rakesh

... Petitioner

-vs-

1.The Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission
Rep. by its Secretary, TNPSC Road,
V.O.C. Street, Park Town Chennai 600 003.

2.The Controller of Examination,
Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
TNPSC Road, V.O.C. Street,
Park Town, Chennai 600 003.

... Respondents

Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records of the respondents relating to tentative key answers published on 07.01.2021 and their selection list based on the tentative answer key which was published on 09.02.2021 in the respondents official website and quash the same and consequently direct the respondents to revise the said answer key and the said list of selected candidates only based on the final answer key of Group-I preliminary examination conducted on 03.01.2021.

For the Petitioner : Mr.S.Kolandasamy

For the Respondents : Mr.V.Govardhan



ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by The Hon'ble Chief Justice)

The grievance of the petitioner is in how one of the options in the objective type questions set for the written examination has been phrased.

2. Ordinarily, when options are given for a candidate to pick from the suggested answers in an objective type examination, the last option may be "none of the above". However, in this case, several of the questions carry the last alternative in the form of "answer not known". The petitioner finds this objectionable and says that it is misleading.

3. It is evident on a reading of the answers to the relevant questions that in every case there are five options and wherever, "answer not known" figures, it is always the last option. It is possible, as the petitioner suggests, for "answer not known" to imply that the candidate is not aware of the answer and it may not imply "none of the above".

4. However, since the relevant option is uniform and all candidates have taken the same examination, there is no particular prejudice that the petitioner would have suffered or that any individual candidate would have suffered which is different from what others may have also experienced.

5. In any event, the respondent authorities should take a uniform stand, if not already taken, as to whether or not to allot any marks to any answer where the option exercised is in favour of "answer not known".

6. There does not appear to be any great prejudice caused to the petitioner or anybody else in how the questions or the answers therefor were worded.

7. In view of the above, WP No.21299 of 2021 is disposed of without interfering with the matters complained of. The respondent authorities will, however, mark if the answer given there is "answer not known" in a uniform manner.

There will be no order as to costs. W.M.P.Nos.22539, 22541 and 22543 of 2021 are closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CS IX)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar



sra

To:

1.The Secretary,
The Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission
TNPSC Road, V.O.C. Street,
Park Town, Chennai 600 003.

2.The Controller of Examination,
Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
TNPSC Road, V.O.C. Street,
Park Town, Chennai 600 003.

W.P.No.21299 of 2021

RLD (CO)
PR (11/10/2021)