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

CWP-27905-2023 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 27.01.2025

NAVEEN JAIN

.....Petitioner (s)

V/s.**STATE OF HARYANA AND OTHERS**

.....Respondent(s)

CORAM: **HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA**
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA

Present: Mr. R.K. Malik, Senior Advocate, assisted by
 Mr. Sandeep Dhull, Advocate and
 Mr. Vivek Aggarwal, Advocate for the petitioner.

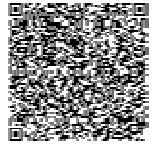
Ms. Palika Monga, DAG, Haryana.

Mr. Akshaydeep Singh, Advocate for respondent No.3.

Mr. Sudhir Nar, Senior Panel Counsel,
 for respondent No.4.

SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA, J. (Oral)

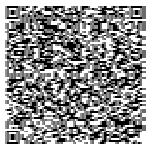
1. The issue with regard to the educational qualifications for the post of Assistant Director Archives (Group-B) in the Archives Department, Haryana, with respect to the essential qualification of Diploma in Archives Keeping, is the bone of contention which the petitioner raises before this Court, stating that the Diploma in Archives Keeping is now re-named as Diploma in Archival Studies and thereafter, Diploma in Archives and Records Management. The words “Archives Keeping”, thus, is now re-named. However, the Diploma remains the same and candidates would not have the Diploma in Archives, which was earlier being awarded by the Archives Department. The petitioner, therefore, preferred this Writ Petition before this Court.



2. Reply has been filed by the State of Haryana and the State authorities concede to the aforesaid facts and have also place on record letter dated 27.10.2023 (Annexure R-I), written by the Director, Archives Department of Haryana to the Secretary, Haryana Public Service Commission to consider the Diplomas in Archives and Records Management and Diploma in Archival Studies as essential qualifications for the purpose of selection to the post of Assistant Director Archives. However, respondent No.3-HPSC has expressed its difficulty in accepting the said letter issued by the State authorities on the ground that appropriate amendment in the Rules of 1992 has not been effected as till date and in view thereto, the advertisement does not reflects the equivalent qualification of Diploma in Archives Keeping to be that of the Diploma in Archival Studies and Diploma in Archives and Records Management.

3. From the reply filed by the State, we find that the matter has been sent to the Cabinet for making appropriate amendment in the Rules of 1992. Be that as it may, we notice that the advertisement was issued by respondent No.3-HPSC on 31.07.2018 and the last date for applying was 30.08.2018, the equivalence as on that date, was not available before respondent No.3-HPSC. It is also informed that the concerned advertisement never proceeded further, obviously because the Diploma in Archives Keeping is no more awarded to the students after the session 1979-1980.

4. We, therefore, in view of the above facts, direct respondent N.3-HPSC to re-advertise the post immediately after their Rules are



amended by the State Government. The State Government would take steps for making necessary corrections/amendments in making the qualification of Diploma relevant by treating the Diploma in Archival Studies and Diploma in Archives and Records Management to be the essential qualification for the said post.

5. We also notice that the post of Assistant Director Archives must be lying vacant since long, we, therefore, expect the State Government to take steps as early as possible preferably within a period of three months for the said purpose.

6. It is made clear that the candidates, who would have been within age at the relevant time when the advertisement issued in the year 2018, would be given the relevant age relaxation for the purpose of participation so that they may not be deprived of consideration for selection.

7. With these observations, the present Writ Petition stands disposed of.

8. All pending applications in this case are disposed of accordingly.

[SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA]
JUDGE

[MEENAKSHI I. MEHTA]
JUDGE

January 27, 2025

Ess Kay

Whether speaking / reasoned	:	Yes	/	No
Whether Reportable	:	Yes	/	No