

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH  
61/35, COPERNICUS MARG, NEW DELHI-110001**

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**Order Sheet**

Item no.: 11  
Diary No: 474/2025  
[ APPOINTMENT ]  
Court No.: 4

**No of Adjournment:**

**Order Dated: 16/01/2025**

**RAVI RANA AND ORS  
Vs  
STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION (SSC)**

**For Applicant(s) Advocate :** Mr. Ankur Chhibber with Dr. Swaroop George with Mr. Abhinandan, Mr. Nikunj raora, Mr. Mobashshi Sarwar

**For Respondent(s) Advocate :** Ms. Sunanda Shukla, Mr. Ramneek Mishra, Mr. Prashant, , Mr. Tejendera Rawat, Mr. Asish Chaudhary, Mr. Satish, Mr. Abhishek Kesharwani (Dir. SSC)

**Order of The Tribunal**

The Original Application has been filed by 25 applicants who applied pursuant to the advertisement for the CGLE 2024 issued by the SSC for appointment to various posts. Learned counsel for the applicants submitted that the recruitment under CGLE 2024 was to be conducted for different posts, which included posts in Pay Levels 4 to 7. One of the posts in Pay Level 6 was that of Junior Statistical Officer (JSO), where the maximum age limit was 32 years, while for the remaining posts, the maximum age limit was

either 27 or 30 years.

2. Learned counsel submitted that the applicants are aspirants for these posts and are younger than 30 years. However, in the said examination, they are competing against candidates aged above 30 years but below 32 years, who would be eligible to take the examination only for one post, i.e., Junior Statistical Officer. As per the scheme of the examination, all aspirants were required to participate in Tier 1. The result of the Tier 1 examination was declared by the SSC on 05.12.2024. Learned counsel further submitted that the result was declared in three parts: List-1, List-2, and List-3.

3. He submitted that List-1 was meant for candidates competing for the post of JSO, meaning those candidates who were below 32 years of age on the cutoff date. He submitted that List-2 was meant for the post of Statistical Investigator Grade II, and List-3 was for all other candidates shortlisted in Tier 1 for posts other than JSO and Statistical Investigator.

4. Learned counsel submitted that candidates above 30 years of age on the cutoff date could only compete for the post of Junior Statistical Officer and could have been included in List-1 as per merit. However, due to an error on the part of the respondents, they were also included in List-3. As an example, learned counsel pointed out one candidate, Mr. Neeraj Kumar Chawla (Roll Number 2201271336), whose date of birth is 25.02.1994. He was 30 years and 6 months old on the cutoff date but was included in List-3 for posts other than JSO/Statistical Investigator at Serial Number 32539. Similarly, another candidate, Mr. Deepak Sharda (DOB: 27.07.1994, Roll Number 7208050903), was included in List-3 at Serial Number 145837.

5. The learned counsel, on instructions, submitted that the applicants have reviewed the entire list and found that at least 872 such candidates, who were above 30 years of age, were included in List-3. He submitted that due to this, the cutoff declared in List-3 for all categories was inflated, resulting in the ouster of the

applicants. He further submitted that the cutoff for the UR category in List-3 was 153.18, and the applicants had scored marks in proximity to the said cutoff. Due to this error, the applicants were being denied the chance to appear in the Tier 2 examination, whereas over 800 candidates, who would ultimately be disqualified due to being overage, were being allowed to take the Tier 2 examination.

6. Heard.

7. Issue notice. Learned counsel appearing on advance service on behalf of the respondents accepts notice and seeks time to file reply. He submits that this issue was raised before the Hon'ble High Court in Writ Petition No. 99/2025, where the Hon'ble High Court issued notices but did not grant any interim relief. Although it is not denied that overage candidates were included in List-3, he stated that such candidates would ultimately be disqualified from appointment due to their age.

8. At this, the learned counsel for the applicants submitted that they are aware of the writ petition filed before the Hon'ble High Court. However, he submitted that the same was in the nature of a PIL, and no specific interim relief for petitioner therein had been granted. He further submitted that the writ petition was sought by a single applicant seeking the following relief:

“A. Issue an Order inter alia, Staying the Tier-II examination, scheduled to commence on 18.01.2025, in connection with the Combined Graduate Level (CGL) 2024 recruitment process, until the Respondents revise and reissue Results are published by the Respondent No.1 and No.2

B. Direct the Respondents to ensure adherence to the prescribed eligibility criteria and normalization principles before proceeding with further stages of the examination;

Pass such other and further orders as this Hon'ble Court may be deem just and fit in the facts and circumstances of the present case.  
”

9. Learned counsel clarified that the applicants in the present OA are not seeking a stay on the entire examination process but are only seeking permission to appear provisionally in the Tier 2 examination, subject to the outcome of the OA.

10. We have considered the rival submissions and the documents placed on record. It is apparent from record that the two candidates specifically pointed out by the applicants were indeed overage and, as such, could not have been included in List-3 of the said examination. Considering the detailed chart of 872 such candidates filed by the applicants, which is a substantial number, the inclusion of such overage candidates will undoubtedly have a bearing on the cutoff in various categories.

11. In view of the above, we find merit in the OA and deem it appropriate to grant interim relief. Accordingly, we direct the respondents SSC to allow the applicants to appear provisionally in the Tier 2 examination, subject to the outcome of the OA.

12. List on 19.03.2025. "Dasti".

**Dr. Sumeet Jerath**  
Member (A)

**Harvinder Kaur Oberoi**  
Member (J)

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