

Cabinet approves ordinance to protect KPSC recruitees

HC had directed govt to address anomalies in recruitment process

BENGALURU: The state Cabinet on Monday decided to promulgate an ordinance as a one-time relief measure to "protect" gazetted officers who will face demotion or lose jobs as their recruitment process in 1998 was found to be fraught with irregularities.

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the government to set right anomalies in the recruitment process followed by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) in the 1998 batch. At least 25 officials in service are set to lose their jobs while some others, including those who have been promoted as IAS officers, face demotion.

"The 1998 batch of KPSC recruitment has been caught in legal entanglements. As per the court order, 28 people will be new joiners, 25 who are in service will lose their job, three were selected without a personality test and 140 will be transferred from one department to another due to changes in their selection list," Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

(RDPR) Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said briefing reporters.

"As a one-time relief, the Cabinet has approved a new ordinance to protect only those who will be demoted and those who will lose their jobs. These officers have served the government for 20 years now. We're giving them job security," Gowda said.

The Karnataka Civil Services (Protection of Service of Persons appointed in pursuance to final selection list Published by Selection Authority) Ordinance, 2019, will now be sent to

HAL wants to do cloud seeding

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has approached the state government saying it can take up cloud seeding, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said. "I've asked officials to check with HAL on the technology they have for cloud seeding," Gowda said.

The Cabinet has approved the tender for cloud seeding at a cost of Rs 93 crore for 2019-20 and 2020-21. Kyathi Climate Modification Consultants has been awarded the tender for the cloud seeding project.

the Governor for assent.

The ordinance, Gowda asserted, would not amount to condoning irregularities in the recruitment.

"Nowhere has it been proved that candidates have wronged. The court has observed loopholes in the recruitment process and has said that those deprived of opportunities must be protected. We will do that, but in that process, recruitees should not be affected because of acts of selection authority," Gowda explained.

"You can't demote a tahsildar

Other decisions

- Administrative approval to construct 1000-bed facility at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru at a cost of **Rs 59 crore.**
- Approval to provide basic infrastructure and development of government engineering college at Ramanagara at a cost of **Rs 61.24 crore.**
- Approval to pay **Rs 85.60 crore** of Centre's share towards providing 24x7 water supply for Mysuru under JnNURM.
- **Rs 22.89 crore** for hostel building at Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences.
- Modernisation of Visvesvaraya canal and other distribution canals to provide water supply to farmers at the tailend of the canal at **Rs 522.37 crore.**
- Multi-village water supply schemes at Uttara Kannada and Hassan at a cost of **Rs 136.94 crore.**
- Revision of construction cost of the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences in Mysuru to **Rs 168.59 crore.**
- Approval to include None of the Above (NOTA) option during urban local bodies elections.
- Comprehensive drinking water project for Holenarsipura in Hassan from the Hemavathi river at **Rs 62.45 crore.**

to a revenue inspector all of a sudden," he pointed out.

Posts will be created additionally "on a temporary basis" for those who have to be recruited afresh, he said. "They will be recruited to posts based on the seniority they would have

achieved had they been in service for 20 years," Gowda said.

The Cabinet also approved promulgating an ordinance to bifurcate Gulbarga University to create a new Raichur University.

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