

Government of Odisha
General Administration and Public Grievance Department

No. 30739/Gen., Bhubaneswar, dated 17th October, 2024.
GAD-FE-OSSSC-0020-2024

From

Sri Manas Ranjan Padhi, OAS
Additional Secretary to Government.

To

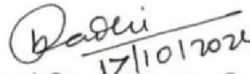
The DC-cum- Additional Chief Secretary to Government.
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, R & DM Department.
The Principal Secretary to Government, E & IT Department.
The Chief Executive Officer, OCAC.
The Secretary, OSSSC.

Sub: Minutes of the meeting held on 08.10.2024 on OSSSC recruitment examination matter.

Madam/ Sir,

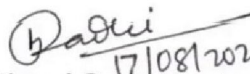
In inviting a reference to the subject noted above, I am directed to enclose herewith the minutes of the meeting held on 08.10.2024 at 3 P.M. on OSSSC recruitment examination matter under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


17/10/2024
Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. 30740/Gen. Date 17.10.2024

Copy forwarded to the OSD to Chief Secretary/ Senior Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary, G.A. & P.G. Department for kind information of Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary, G.A. & P.G. Department. ✓


17/10/2024
Additional Secretary to Government

Minutes of meeting chaired by Chief Secretary on 08.10.2024 at 3 PM on OSSSC recruitment examination matter

Chief Secretary chaired the meeting. Following senior officials were present in the meeting.

- Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.
- Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue & Disaster Management Deptt
- Additional Chief Secretary to Government, GA&PG Department
- Principal Secretary to Government, Electronics & Information Technology Deptt
- Chief Executive Officer, OCAC
- Chairman, OSSSC
- Secretary, OSSSC
- Additional Secretary/ Joint Secretaries of OSSSC

- (1) This meeting was held in response to an ongoing agitation of some students / candidates /people demanding cancellation of recruitment examination of OSSSC held in CBT mode through SIFY (a Chennai based company) on multi-day and multi-batch basis from 20.09.2024 to 08.10.2024 (except 06.10.2024) for filling up of 2895 posts of RI, ARI, Amin, ICDS Supervisor and SFS.
- (2) Similar demand has also been made vis-à-vis the previous recruitment examination conducted by OSSSC in CBT mode through Eduquity (a Bengaluru based company) on multi-day and multi-batch basis from 24.04.2024 to 07.05.2024 for filling up of 2712 posts of LI, Forester and Forest Guard. Provisional Screening List of this examination has already been published and 8496 candidates @ 3 times of the vacancies have been provisionally selected to undergo next stage of examination, i.e. Physical Test.
- (3) It is alleged by the agitationists that these CBT Mode examinations of OSSSC suffered from following defects.
 - Conducted by blacklisted companies like Eduquity and SIFY
 - Held in private cyber/computer coaching centres/institutions where sanctity of examination could not be ensured



- On 30.09.2024, in SSB Edutech Centre located in Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, the examination was delayed by an hour or so
- Some computers were hacked whereby candidates paid money to hackers who, in collusion with staff of examination conducting company and examination centre, took remote access of the hacked computers and solved the questions by online question solvers. By this malpractice, undeserving candidates with very poor academic records would get selected for the posts.

They, therefore, have been demanding to cancel these two CBT examinations and do them afresh in conventional pen/paper mode.

(4) Chairman (OSSSC) put forth the stance of OSSSC as given below.

- Eduquity and SIFY are companies empanelled by E&IT Department of State Government in 2023 to conduct CBT recruitment examinations by OPSC, OSSC and OSSSC. Secondly, no one has produced any credible document to show that these two companies have been blacklisted anywhere in India.
- CBT is a new experimentation by OSSSC as conducting conventional pen/paper examination for 4 to 5 lakh candidates (4,18,423 candidates had applied for LI/Forester/Forest Guard examination and 5,58,129 candidates had applied for RI/ARI/Amin/ICDS Supervisor /SFS examination) suffers from following problems.
 - To accommodate so many candidates at one go, schools and colleges outside district H.Q. (i.e. at Sub-Division/ Block H.Q.) are also to be made as examination centres which involve massive logistic arrangement
 - In absence of proper supervision of examination centres located away from district H.Q., chances of malpractice in such centres (like copying, etc.) increase manifold. (Some of these schools and colleges are not Government Schools and Colleges.)
 - Chances of question paper leakage is high
 - (Note: on 30.01.2022, OSSSC had conducted a conventional pen/paper examination for 2841 posts of ARI/Amin/SFS/Forest Guard/ Excise Constable.

4,86,148 candidates had registered for this examination which was conducted in 1445 centres ; mostly located in Block HQs.)

- The just concluded CBT exam for RI/ARI/Amin/ICDS Supervisor /SFS is a preliminary examination. About 14,500 candidates (i.e. @ 5 times the vacancies) will then be selected for appearing main examination which will be done either in CBT mode or in conventional pen/paper mode.
- Though this preliminary examination was conducted by SIFY in some private cyber/computer coaching centres/institutions, following arrangements had been made at each centre to maintain sanctity of examination.
 - ✓ CCTV coverage
 - ✓ An OAS/ORS officer as Observer
 - ✓ Police deployment as per requirement
 - ✓ Overall supervision by district administration
- OSSSC has not received any report from any observer/district administration regarding dislocation in conduct of the RI/ARI/Amin/ICDS Supervisor/SFS preliminary examination; excepting the lone incident of SSB Edutech (Nayapalli, BBSR) where, only on 30.09.2024, the first batch examination was started late by an hour or so due to some local server connection problem which also led to delayed start of 2nd and 3rd batches of examination.

(5) Moreover, many of these centres are also used for other CBT-based recruitment examinations like Banking, RRB, NEET, GATE, AIIMS, NTA, OAC, JEE Main, RRB, Odisha JEE, SSC, CAT, IISER, UGC, CUET, NTPC, OUAT etc.

(6) The matter was discussed in great detail, including pros and cons of CBT mode examination and conventional pen/paper examination, and following decisions were taken.

(a) LI/Forester/Forest Guard Examination (conducted in April-May'2024)

- Physical test, scheduled on 18-21 Oct' 2024, should be deferred till a thorough analysis of session wise/ centre wise marks obtained by students is done. This should be completed in a weeks time.

- In view of some specific allegation received by OSSSC about candidates having very poor academic credentials scoring 100 percentile mark, Eduquity should put up the analysis of the entire raw score data of candidates in comparison with their earlier scores available to detect glaring anomaly, if any.
- It should also cross-check the results as per NTA formula whether any error had been committed while preparing the percentile mark result already published.

(b) RI/ARI/Amin/ICDS Supervisor/SFS Examination (conducted in Sept-Oct' 2024)

- Candidates should be asked to lodge complaint/grievances, if they wish to, in OSSSC website. Detailed modalities of receiving complaints/grievance petitions through User Id & password of candidates will be intimated to the candidates by OSSSC separately.
- A high-level committee will be constituted at Government level to inquire into such complaints/grievances and recommend suitable action as deemed appropriate
- A press note should be released by GA&PG Department in this light to assuage feelings of candidates agitating against the examinations.

(C) For conducting CBTs in future:

CBTs, if conducted properly with all necessary checks and balances, are much better and safer than conventional examination in pen/paper mode; especially when number of candidates is in lakhs. Accordingly, following things should be ensured for future CBTs to be conducted by OSSSC.

- (i) CBTs in future should be held only in Government (Central as well as State) educational institutions and some reputed semi-government institutions situated at/in district headquarters and Municipal Corporations. E&IT Department/OCAC shall assist State Government educational institutions financially and technically to develop a capacity of 25,000 nodes (i.e. 25,000 candidates can take CBT examination in one batch). If such capacity cannot be made in existing Government educational institutions, E&IT

Department/OCAC shall establish dedicated Government CBT centres at district H.Qs/Municipal Corporations. For this, E&IT Department shall make necessary budget provision. OSSSC shall make payment to these centres for conduct of the exams on a per candidate basis. These centres will also be used for examinations conducted by other State and National Recruitment agencies.

- (ii) Secondly, examination centres developed by NTA/NRA or Ministry of Higher Education, Government of India for conduct of CBT examinations may also be considered for conduct of CBT examinations by OSSSC..
- (iii) OSSSC should also get in touch with NTA/NRA as well as SSC for obtaining their SOPs for conduct of examinations especially CBTs and incorporate the best features in their guidelines.
- (iv) CBTs in future shall be conducted by OSSSC through agencies/companies empanelled by NTA/NRA. OCAC shall maintain a list of such agencies / companies and shall also fix their rate/fee for conducting CBTs.
- (v) OCAC shall also empanel agencies/companies for undertaking cyber forensic audit of computer nodes selected randomly (or on complaint basis) during CBT examination.
- (vi) OSSSC shall engage reputed institutions/organisations for conducting third party audit of future CBTs wherein the scope of work will include the entire gamut of conduct of CBT and processing of result.
- (vii) In future, to ensure that no undeserving candidate gets selected for any Government job, OSSSC shall conduct all its examinations (whether in CBT mode or in conventional mode) where number of candidates exceed 50,000, in two-stage format, i.e. Preliminary Examination followed by Main Examination.
- (viii) As the above-mentioned two-stage examination system will take longer time than single-stage examination system, examination completion time-line of OSSSC needs to be shortened. In this regard, proposal submitted by OSSSC to GA&PG Department, vide OSSSC letter No.685 (C)/OSSSC

dt.20.07.2024, regarding doing away with Computer Skill Test should be accepted by Government for immediate necessary action.

- (ix) To facilitate better functioning of OSSSC, GA&PG Department should urgently man OSSSC with adequate staff at all levels and approve its new building proposal (on the same land), with modifications as deemed appropriate.


Manoj Ahuja (IAS)
Chief Secretary
Government of Odisha