

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu
www.jkssb.nic.in

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: J&K SSB refutes allegations of overcharging from aspirants; describes this as an attempt to divert attention from good work.

This is with reference to the news item published in a section of media and some social media platforms regarding alleged 'over-charging' of application/examination fee from the applicants by the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSSB). Prima facie the aforesaid unfair and out of context criticism appears to be an attempt to deflect attention from the widely hailed efforts of the JKSSB in ensuring high standards of transparency in recently held examinations, besides declaring time bound results, amid all the odds and difficulties caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The JKSSB Board being one of the largest and prime recruiting agency for the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for Non-Gazetted positions, has fixed Rs 350/- as application/examination fee from candidates for conduct of written test of all categories of posts in the year 2015 and pertinently, the same has not been revised for the past 6 years. The fee so charged is utilized for meeting the expenses for online application development, conduct of examination and other incidental charges like remuneration of invigilator staff/Magistrates/Observers, hiring of vehicles for Centre Magistrates/ Centre Observers/transportation of examination material to and fro the examination Centres, Videography of Examination Centres etc. The JKSSB keeps conducting examinations regularly and makes payments to various stakeholders as per the laid down norms and parameters.

It is pertinent to mention here that the application/examination fee charged by the JKSSSB is one of the lowest as compared to sister recruiting and testing agencies of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, like Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE). The J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (J&K BOPEE) charges an amount of Rs



1200/- for Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to B.E /B.Tech (Engineering) courses in various Govt & Private Colleges of J&K UT, an amount of Rs 500/- for admission to CET for (10th based) Para-Medical Diploma (FMPHW/MMPFW) Courses and Rs 1000/- for admission to CET for (12th based) Para-Medical Diploma Courses. Similarly, the J&K Public Service Commission charged Rs 1000/- application fee for general category candidates and Rs 500/- from reserved category candidates for recently advertised posts. Therefore, the alleged claim that the application/examination fee fixed by J&K SSB is punitive is misleading, out of context and gross exaggeration, having no connect with existing reality.


Further, the Board does not receive budgetary support/grant, other than administrative expenses from the UT Government, either for meeting shortfalls regarding conduct of examination or introduction of transparency related services. The comparison of JKSSB - a UT level recruiting agency with a national level recruiting body like Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is not only inapplicable but misleading, in as much as that varied factors including relative cost of examination, budgetary grant provided by the Government, etc govern the quantum of fee to be charged from candidates. It is also asserted that the application/examination fee charged by the JKSSB presently is realistic and reasonable and if the circumstances permit, the Board will not hesitate in reducing the application/examination fee in future in the interest of aspirants.

The Board while taking cognizance of the fact that the ongoing pandemic has severely impacted the economy and as relaxation/ relief to the unemployed youth of the Union Territory, decided to charge only one time application fee for all such identical posts which have been advertised vide different advertisement notifications and for which Board intends to conduct a single examination.

Moreover, the Board notifies tentative answer key of all the question paper(s) and gives reasonable opportunity to candidates for submitting representation before finalizing the answer key(s) free of cost unlike J&K BOPEE, which charges an amount of Rs 1000/- for the same.



The Board takes this opportunity to strongly refute motivated attempts of diverting attention from the good work being done by the JKSSB to provide employment to deserving and meritorious candidates in a time bound and transparent manner, despite recent changes in the legal framework and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.


7/6/21
Secretary
J&K Services Selection Board
Jammu
7/6/21

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Copy to the:

1. Joint Director Information Department, J&K, Jammu with the request to publish this Press Release in all the local daily newspapers of J&K UT
2. Private Secretary to Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board, Jammu
3. In-charge Website, Services Selection Board, Jammu.