



KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1956)

Reg. Office: Vidyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 004, Kerala.

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ABSTRACT

Establishment – Abolishing 799 posts of Meter Reader/Spot Biller in KSEB Limited –
Sanctioned – Orders issued.

Corporate Office (Administration)

B.O. (DB) No. 494/2018 (Estt.II/6718/2016)

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram 23.02.2018

- Read: 1. B.O. PSI-84/88(59) dated 05.10.1990.
2. B.O. (FM) No. 1297/02 (Estt.III/396/99) dated 19.09.2002.
3. Letter No. Estt.II/6781/2017 dated 30.01.2018 of the Secretary (Administration).
4. Circular Resolution No. Estt.II/6718/2016/2017-18 dated 22.02.2018.
(Item No. CR-01-2/2018).

ORDER

A decision to appoint Meter Readers in the erstwhile Kerala State Electricity Board was taken during 1990 and accordingly the method of appointment and qualifications were fixed as per B.O. read 1st paper above. As per the above order, 75% of vacancy is to be filled up by direct recruitment and 25% by promotion from in-service candidates having required qualification. The sanctioned strength in the post of Meter Reader was also fixed as 1721 during 2002 as per B.O. read 2nd paper above.

The Chief Engineer (HRM) reported one Non Joining Duty (NJD) vacancy of Meter Reader to the Kerala Public Service Commission on 31.10.2012 for recruitment. The candidates who appeared in the test approached the Honorable High Court of Kerala to publish the list and report the present vacancies to the KPSC. The Honourable High Court, in judgment dated 04.01.2018 in WP (C) Nos. 30039 of 2016-D and 21919 of 2017-L ordered KSEB Limited to report 799 vacancies of Meter Readers to the KPSC. Against the Single Bench judgment, the Board filed an appeal as WA No. 173/2018 before the Division Bench and the Court issued an interim order staying the direction of the Single Bench.

KSEB Limited has initiated a restructuring process based on the directions of the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission and recommendations given by the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode. On the basis of a detailed study made by the IIM, Kozhikode to bail out the Company from the financial crisis, KSEB Limited requested the KPSC to put on hold all further recruitments including that of Meter Readers, as per letter read 3rd paper above.

A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed among Ministry of Power, Government of India and Government of Kerala and KSEB Limited under the UDAY Scheme on 02.03.2017 to take various measures to improve the efficiency of KSEB Limited. Among other things as mutually agreed, it was also decided to install Smart Meters to various consumers in accordance with the volume of consumption, which is having the facility of remote reading without visiting the premises of consumers. The Company has already got the approval of a DPR from Government of India to buy and install 5 lakh Smart Meters and the Company is going ahead with the procurement. In the above scenario, further recruitment to the post of Meter Reader will create a situation of under-utilization of Meter Readers.

The Company has introduced Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) for meter reading in all field offices in the Distribution wing. As a result, the job description of Meter Readers has been completely changed and now meter reading job can be done by any category of employees available within the Company. Further, a phased reduction of existing vacancies of Meter Readers is badly needed with the introduction of Smart Meters. So any further recruitment from PSC will hamper the smooth phasing out of redundant posts of Meter Readers and will also result in extra financial burden to the already ailing Company.

Considering all the above points, it was observed that the present 799 vacancies of Meter Readers are no more required to be filled up due to the introduction of technological advancements. The available surplus staff in other categories can be engaged for meter reading till the roll out of Smart Meters is completed. However this decision would be subject to the outcome of Writ Appeal No. 173/2018 before the Honourable High Court of Kerala.

The matter was placed before the Board of Directors for a decision through Circular Resolution read 4th paper above and it was resolved to abolish the 799 posts of Meter Reader/Sport Biller with immediate effect subject to the outcome of Writ Appeal No. 173/2018 pending before the Honorable High Court of Kerala. It was further resolved to inform the above decision to the Kerala Public Service Commission.

Accordingly, the sanctioned strength in the post of Meter Reader will reduce from 1721 to 922.

Orders are issued accordingly.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
Sd/-
P.G Unnikrishnan,
Secretary (Administration)

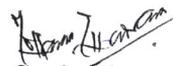
To

The Chief Engineer (HRM).

Copy to:

1. All Chief Engineers.
2. The Chief Engineer (IT).
3. The Financial Advisor / Chief Internal Auditor.
4. The Company Secretary-in-charge.
5. The Chief Personnel Officer / Legal Adviser & Disciplinary Enquiry Officer.
6. T.A to the Chairman & Managing Director / Director (D & IT) / Director (T & SO) / Director (GC & HRM) / Director (CP, GE, SCM & Safety).
7. P.A to the Director (Finance).
8. The Chief Public Relations Officer.
9. C.A to the Secretary (Administration) / Sr.CA to Chief Vigilance Officer.
10. The Fair Copy Superintendent, O/o the Secretary (Administration)
11. Library / Stock File.

Forwarded / By Order


Senior Superintendent

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