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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

Decided on 10.03.2025

+ W.P.(C) 2871/2025

AYUSH SHUKLA

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Kunwar Aditya Singh and
Ms.Vartika Singh, Advocates.

versus

NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION LTD. & ANR.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Akshit Pradhan, Mr. Yogesh
Verma and Mr. Aakrist Goyal,
Advocates for R-1.

Ms. Anushkaa Arora, SPC with Ms.
Mahamaya Chatterjee, Govt. Pleader
and Mr. Akash Dubey, Advocate
for R-2.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRATEEK JALAN

PRATEEK JALAN, J (ORAL)

1. The petitioner herein applied for appointment as an Engineering Executive Trainee ["EET"] 2023 in the Mechanical Engineering Discipline with respondent No. 1 - Nuclear Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. ["NTPC"]. He seeks a direction for issuance of a call letter to him.
2. I have heard learned counsel for the parties.
3. The recruitment of EET commenced with an advertisement issued by NTPC on 06.10.2023, wherein 200 vacancies were advertised in the Mechanical Engineering Discipline. The petitioner submitted his application form on 18.10.2023, but did not receive a call letter.



4. It is the petitioner's contention that NTPC released a cut-off for shortlisting of candidates, based upon the candidate's rank in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering ["GATE"], 2023. As far as the Mechanical Engineering stream is concerned, the cut-off was at an All-India Rank of 926 in the unreserved category. The petitioner has placed on record his GATE scorecard, which shows that he had attained a rank of 754 in the GATE-2023. It is on this basis that he challenges his exclusion from consideration.

5. The difficulty appears to be that in the application form filed by the petitioner, he made a mistake, in that he did not provide his GATE-2023 registration number, but instead provided his GATE score of 668. A copy of the application registration slip as annexed to the writ petition is reproduced below, with the relevant column highlighted:



ANNEXURE P-3

NTPC Limited
Application registration Slip
Advt No 22.2022
Post Name: EET 2023 (Mechanical)

Discipline:	EET 2023 (Mechanical)	Date of Registration:	18-Oct-2023
Name:	Ayush Shukla	Gender:	M
Date of Birth:	24-Sep-1998	PwBD:	No
Category:	General	Type of disability:	-
NTPC Employee:	No	J&K Domicile:	No
Ex-Serviceman:	No	GATE/CLAT/Other reg details	
Email - Id:	ayushshukla652@gmail.com	668	
Qualification-1 (as required for the post)		% of Marks	Passing Year
B.E/B.Tech-Degree in Engineering		84.30%	2020-09-25
Branch:	Mechanical		
Qualification-2 (as required for the post)		% of Marks	Passing Year
		TID: 328791_43_126_invua0	
Branch:			
Mailing Address:		BRef: YUP22116545328	
632115 Lucknow District: Pin: 226108		Status: Paid Payment Details	
		Mode: Online	

I hereby declare that the particulars stated in this slip and submitted through on-line application are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed. Further, I state that I meet the eligibility criteria as specified in the detailed advertisement available on the website careers.ntpc.co.in. In case any of the information is found to be false, incorrect or misleading at any stage, I shall have no claim against cancellation of my candidature and/or taking other legal action as deemed fit by NTPC.



NTPC Application No.

52362

Note: Please keep the copy of this slip for your future reference.

//TRUE COPY//

6. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner made an inadvertent error in filling in his GATE score, instead of the registration number, in the application form. He points out that his All-India Rank was 754 as opposed to the cut-off rank of 926, and the petitioner is, thus, a meritorious candidate who would have received a call letter but for this



inadvertent error.

7. Learned counsel for the respondents, on the other hand, submits that the entire shortlisting of candidates was based upon their GATE-2023 scores and ranks, which could be accessed by NTPC, based upon the registration number in the application form. The GATE- 2023 examination was one of the qualifying criteria stipulated in the said advertisement. The importance of the GATE-2023 registration number was emphasised in the advertisement itself, in the following provisions, under the heading “*HOW TO APPLY:*”.

“1. Candidates need to apply online for NTPC EET-2023 on the website careers.ntpc.co.in or visit careers section at www.ntpc.co.in with their GATE-2023 registration number.

2. Candidates will be required to upload their photograph & enter GATE-2023 registration number during online application.

*3. Read the instructions carefully and fill-in the online application form giving accurate information including the GATE-2023 registration number. After successful application, system will generate a unique application number. Candidates are required to **download the application slip** and keep the printout of the **application slip** which will be generated by the system after successful application.*

4. Please ensure that the GATE-2023 registration number, which is mentioned on your GATE-2023 score card, is filled up correctly. Name should also be filled up as appearing in GATE score card. No request with respect to the change in any data entered by the candidate will be entertained once the application is submitted successfully.”

[Emphasis supplied.]

8. Learned counsel for the respondents also states that the recruitment has been concluded in October, 2024 itself.

9. The petitioner’s contention that he would have qualified for shortlisting in the normal course is not disputed, but I am unable to come to his assistance, in view of the fact that he did not fill the crucial details in the application form correctly. The provisions of advertisement, quoted above,



emphasised time and again, the importance of accurate GATE- 2023 registration number. Neither the advertisement, nor the application, speaks of the GATE- 2023 score. The petitioner, as submitted by learned counsel, has committed an inadvertent error, but I am unable to relieve him of its consequences.

10. Further, as the recruitment process has been concluded in October, 2024, the request for issuance of a call letter at this stage, is also untenable. It is evident from the material annexed to the writ petition that the petitioner has referred to the aforesaid facts even in an application under the Right to Information Act, 2005, made in September 2024. The present writ petition has, however, been filed only in February/March, 2025. Learned counsel for the petitioner states that the delay has occurred because the petitioner has first approached the Central Administrative Tribunal. However, it is evident from the list of dates and events, that even that application [Diary No. 1123/2025] was filed only in January 2025, and was dismissed for want of jurisdiction on 30.01.2025.

11. In these circumstances, the writ petition is dismissed. Pending applications, if any, are also disposed of.

12. Learned counsel for the respondents states that a further advertisement has been issued, based upon the GATE-2024 examination. Naturally, if the petitioner meets the eligibility criteria, including GATE-2024 examination, he is at liberty to apply in terms of the said application.

PRATEEK JALAN, J

MARCH 10, 2025/ 'vc/JM' /