



**Central Administrative Tribunal  
Principal Bench, New Delhi**

**O.A. No.283/2021**

**This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021**

(Through Video Conferencing)

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, Chairman  
Hon'ble Ms. Aradhana Johri, Member (A)**

Dr. K. Madhu, s/o Kuttan, aged about 57 years  
R/o Gangothri, PPRA 64A,  
Chammanikodathu Road,  
Palarivattom, Kochi – 682 025

...Applicant

(By Advocate :Shri Suvesh Kumar)

**VERSUS**

1. Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB)  
Represented through Chairman,  
Department of Agricultural Research and Education,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
(Govt. of India)  
Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan – I, PUSA,  
New Delhi – 110 012
2. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR),  
Represented through Director General,  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001.
3. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi,  
Represented through Director,  
Post Box No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O.,  
Kochi – 682018.

...Respondents

(By Advocate :Shri Praveen Swaroop)

**ORDER (Oral)****Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, Chairman:**

The applicant was appointed as Scientist in ICAR in the year 1995. He occupied several positions and in the year 2005, he was posted as Scientist at ICAR in an establishment at Portblair.

2. An advertisement was issued on 26.09.2019 inviting applications for the post of Director ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi. The applicant and several other candidates responded. It is stated that the list of short listed candidates was uploaded on 22.01.2021 and it was mentioned that the interviews were to be conducted on 27.01.2021. The name of the applicant did not figure therein. This OA is filed with a prayer to quash the interview process and for a direction to the respondents to interview the applicant for that post.

3. The applicant contends that he holds the qualifications that are prescribed for the post and despite that, he was not selected.

4. We heard Mr. Suvesh Kumar, learned counsel for the applicant and Mr. Praveen Swaroop, learned counsel for the respondents, at the stage of admission.



5. The applicant offered his candidature for the post of Director ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi. The requisite qualifications were stipulated in the advertisement itself. It may be true that the applicant holds the prescribed qualification and the respondents have their own short-listing criteria. The fact however remains that the respondents cannot be expected to interview every candidate and they have to adopt short listing criteria. A list of eight candidates was prepared for this purpose. It is not as if every candidate who holds the qualification must be included in the list. The practice of short-listing is recognized in every selection. The applicant is not able to point out violation of any specific provision in the process of short-listing criteria. The Tribunal cannot interfere with the process simply because the name of the applicant did not figure in the list.

6. It will not be possible for the respondents to communicate the reasons for not short-listing any candidate who responded to the advertisement. It is only after the selection process is concluded, that any query in this behalf, can be made, and not in half way through.



7. We, therefore, do not find any merit in the OA. There shall be no order as to costs.

**(AradhanaJohri)**  
**Member (A)**

**(Justice L. Narasimha Reddy)**  
**Chairman**

/lg/vb/akshaya/sd