

CHHATTISGARH HC NIXES QUOTA LAW, CALLS IT 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'

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The Chhattisgarh High Court on Monday struck down the State government's decision to have 58% reservation in recruitment and entrance examinations, holding that reservation above the 50% ceiling would be unconstitutional.

Disposing of a bunch of 21 writ petitions, the first of which had been filed 10 years ago, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice A.K. Goswami and Justice P.P. Sahu cancelled the reservation implemented by the government in 2012.

Mateen Siddiqui, who had represented some of these petitioners, said that his clients had challenged the provisions of Chhattisgarh Lok Seva (Anusuchit Jatiyon, Anusuchit Janjatiyon Aur Anya Pichhade Vargon Ke Liye Arakshan (Sanshodhan), Adhiniyam, 2011. This was an amendment to the 1994 Act that had kept the ceiling limit of reservation to 50%.

"The order will have prospective effect, that is, no recruitment or admission made during the past 10 years, will be cancelled," Mr. Siddiqui told *The Hindu*. The decision evoked reaction from the Congress which said that the amendment was made by the BJP government and it displayed a "sense of callousness" in amending the law. Dr. Singh said that it was the Congress that had failed to present the case.

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