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NEET: 85% quota for TN students quashed

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Chennai: As a setback to the Tamil Nadu government which is exploiting all the available avenues to do away with NEET for its students, the Madras high court on Monday dismissed an appeal moved by the state assailing a single judge order quashing 85% reservation provided in the government quota of UG medical seats to students from state board.

A division bench of Justices Nooty Ramamohana Rao and M Dhandapani passed the order saying that the appeal moved by the state lacked merits.

On July 14, a single judge of the court quashed the government order passed by the state providing reservation calling it a “step-motherly and discriminatory” move.

The Tamil Nadu government filed an appeal saying the government was bound to make provisions, so as to protect the interests of vast majority of students from state board who did not have access to CBSE schools. The students cannot be held responsible for sudden change in the pattern of admission which is mainly based on syllabus, methodology and examination entirely different from each other, the government said. Counsels for CBSE students argued that the reservation had been brought in only to serve the vested interest of the urban private state board institutions.

Madras HC dismisses T.N. appeal against NEET

Court upholds order of single judge on State Board quota

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday suffered another setback on the NEET issue with the Madras High Court upholding the order of a single judge who quashed the government notification providing 85% reservation for students from the State Board in admissions to MBBS/BDS courses under the State quota.

The court, while dismissing writ appeals in the case, directed the government to take steps to complete the admission process before

the August 31 deadline.

Meanwhile, a delegation comprising State Health Minister C. Vijaya Baskar, Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M. Thambi Durai, and State Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan held three meetings with Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda in New Delhi. Mr. Vijaya Baskar told journalists that they had cited the High Court order and urged the Centre to exempt Tamil Nadu from NEET-based admissions this year.

Earlier, a bench of Justices Nooty Ramamohana Rao

and M. Dhandapani held that the policy decision of allotment of seats on a pro-rata basis, 85% for State Board and 15% for CBSE students, is an artificial one.

"This is an attempt of further classification amongst all the students, who have appeared for the entrance examination, namely the NEET," the judges said.

According to the Bench, once the students have taken NEET, the objective of providing equal opportunities and a level playing field for everyone would be established.

Medical students asked to furnish bank guarantee for fees

TANU KULKARNI
BENGALURU

Several private medical and dental colleges have asked students to produce a bank guarantee for their fees, not just for one year but for all four-and-a-half-years.

This move is to pre-empt students from dropping midway. It also guarantees that students will be able to pay their fees, which runs into lakhs of rupees every year. The fact that some colleges were asking students to furnish documents came to the notice of the admission overseeing committee's chairman Anand Byrareddy, who received a tip off that a college in Shivamogga was asking for a bank guarantee. He has sought a report from the college.

Students, too, are stunned by this development. A student, who has secured a seat in a Davangere private medical college, said: "I have obtained a seat under the private quota and it costs



Added burden: The move is to pre-empt students from dropping midway and to ensure that they pay their fees. *FILE PHOTO

₹6.32 lakh for one year, but furnishing a bank guarantee for ₹22 lakh is not within my means."

Several private medical colleges *The Hindu* spoke to said that a few colleges had started this practice for private seats as well as NRI and the 5% management quota seats. "Earlier, there was a concept of paying the entire course fees as we would do the admissions ourselves. But now, as the admission process is centralised after the National Eligibility-cum-En-

trance Test, we cannot ask students to pay the entire fee. As private medical colleges are self-financed, we do not have any way out," said an official of a deemed university. Deemed university admissions are done by the Directorate General of Health Sciences.

M.K. Ramesh, in-charge Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), said that the university was against this practice. "All students may not be in a po-

sition to give bank guarantee. So colleges should not impose this on students," he said.

Medical Education Minister Sharanprakash Patil said the department had sought a legal opinion and the law department had told that the students can be asked to furnish a bank guarantee but could not keep the documents. He said that the department would, however, examine the time frame within which students were asked to produce bank guarantee.