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There must be a common NEET question paper: SC

Identical questions should be asked in all languages: Bench

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the CBSE about the setting of different questions for students taking NEET in regional languages and said there must be a common question paper.

A Bench led by Justice Dipak Misra said identical questions should be asked for students writing their NEET in English and other regional languages. The same questions can be translated from English to the regional languages concerned.

Justice Misra asked Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh, who was appearing for the CBSE, to file an affidavit in this regard and posted the matter for October 10.

Mr. Singh told the Bench, also comprising Justices Amitava Roy and A.M. Khanwilkar, that questions in vernacular languages in the NEET 2017 examination were not identical translations of the questions in English or Hindi but the difficulty level was the same.

Admission process

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for the petitioner, argued that questions in vernacular languages were not identical to those in Hindi and English. The court had earlier refused to “nullify” the NEET 2017 exam saying it would affect over six lakh candidates who have passed the test to join medical and dental courses. It had said it would be “very difficult” to disturb the results of NEET as around 6.11 lakh candidates, out of a total of 11.35 lakh aspirants, have cleared it and the subsequent counselling and admission process was on.

Besides English and Hindi, the NEET exam was conducted in eight vernacular languages.

Explain how will you have NEET questions in all languages: SC to CBSE

Apex court asks board how it will ensure that the questions have the same difficulty level

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to conduct the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) in all languages across the country with similar questions of same difficulty level.

The common entrance test for admission to medical and dental courses is being conducted in 10 languages.

A bench of justices Dipak Misra, Amitava Roy and A M Khanwilkar asked the CBSE to file an affidavit and explain as to how it proposes to have identical questions papers in all languages.

The court was hearing a peti-

tion filed by non-governmental organisation Sankalp Charitable Trust. The plea stated that most of the regional language papers were difficult than the English and Hindi papers in the NEET 2017 examinations.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appeared on behalf of the trust and cited the ratio of students who gave the NEET examination in English/Hindi with those who gave it in vernacular languages and asked how many of them got qualified.

"The questions in vernacular languages were not identical to the questions in Hindi and English and this resulted in having different ratios," Jaising told the bench. On this, the bench said, "The whole purpose of having a

common exam gets defeated if the CBSE does not follow the set pattern of questions in all languages."

Additional solicitor general Maninder Singh, appearing for the CBSE, admitted that questions in regional languages were not identical translations of the questions in English/Hindi.

Counsel appearing for Medical Council of India too informed the bench that questions were prepared in English and then got translated in Hindi but for setting the questions in other regional languages no language experts were available and hence difference questions were set but the difficulty level of the questions were same.

The bench then said, "Paper should have identical questions no matter what the language it is

in." The court slated the hearing for October 10.

The court had earlier refused to "nullify" the NEET 2017 exam saying it would affect over six lakh candidates who have passed the test to join medical and dental courses.

It had said it would be "very difficult" to disturb the results of NEET as around 6.11 lakh candidates, out of a total of 11.35 lakh aspirants, have cleared it and the subsequent counselling and admission process was on. Besides English and Hindi, the NEET exam was conducted in eight vernacular languages in 2017.

The petitioners had argued in the court the all-India ranking was given in the NEET exam which postulates that every candidate should get the identical question paper. (With PTI inputs)



The whole purpose of having a common exam gets defeated if the CBSE does not follow the set pattern of questions in all languages

Supreme Court