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SC tells state to rethink on 10-year study criteria for PG medical seats

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday told the Karnataka government to “modulate” between institutional preference and residential requirement for candidates in admission to NEET PG-2018 seats in its medical colleges.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Navin Sinha made an oral suggestion to senior advocate Basava Prabhu Patil, representing the state, to reconsider the 10-year residence or study criteria for

candidates to be eligible to post-graduate courses. The counsel assured the court that he would discuss the same with the chief secretary. The court was hearing a writ petition filed by advocate Amit Kumar on behalf of Dr Kriti Lakhina and 39 others, challenging the 10-year study criteria prescribed in the information bulletin of the Karnataka Examination Authority on March 10 for admission to PG courses.

The petitioners, who are residents of other states but com-

pleted MBBS and BDS courses from Karnataka colleges, termed the eligibility criterion as “illegal, arbitrary, discriminatory, unconstitutional and thus void, being in clear violation of Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(g) and 21 of the Constitution”.

On Thursday, the bench told Patil, “The MCI is opposing it on substantial ground. You have to modulate between institutional preference and residential requirement.” The court put the matter for consideration on March 27.

Advocate Gaurav Sharma, appearing for MCI, had earlier said, according to rules, such kind of eligibility cannot be introduced in PG degree courses as seats are very limited.

The petitioners said the notification was contrary to Regulation 9 of the Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000, framed by MCI under Section 33 of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, which stated that admission to PG courses shall be strictly on the basis of merit.

Yogi mulls quota for 'Mahadalits'

LUCKNOW: Wary of the Samajwaadi Party (SP)-BSP combine following humiliating defeats in the recent by-polls in Phulpur and Gorakhpur Lok Sabha constituencies, the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is considering to provide reservations to the 'Mahadalits' and 'Most Backward Communities' (MBC).

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said in the State Assembly on Thursday that the government could consider reservations for these communities if needed.

"The demand for reservation by these communities, who really require it, has been ignored by successive governments," Adityanath said while making his reply on the general budget.

He said that the government would soon constitute a high-level committee to look into the issue and submit a report.

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Rajnath Singh had also proposed a similar reservation in 2002 but it had been scrapped by the court.

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