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Error in allotment of PG medical, dental seats

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

An error in the online post-graduate medical and dental seat allotment process for the all-India quota seats has left thousands of aspirants in the lurch. Candidates were taken aback as the seat allotment results published on Wednesday afternoon were withdrawn and termed as “null and void”.

An announcement on the website of the medical counselling committee (MCC) under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, stated, “Due to inadvertent/technical mistake. Result published today (afternoon) may be treated

as null and void.” The announcement also said fresh results would be uploaded on the website shortly and that the last date for reporting to colleges was extended till April 5. Students are dejected that the results were withdrawn and are worried that their results may change.

A candidate who was allotted an MD seat in Dr. B.C. Roy Post Graduate Institute of Paediatric Sciences, Kolkata, said he was all set to book his tickets to report to the college. “But later in the evening, I came to know that the results have been withdrawn. I will now have to wait for the results to know where I have obtained a seat,” he said.

SC stays K'taka NEET PG allotment process

'Eligibility Conditions Violate Right To Equality'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mangaluru: In a big relief to students from outside the state, the Supreme Court has stayed any future proceedings of a notification issued by Karnataka, making a minimum 10-year study in the state mandatory to qualify for government seats in post-graduate medical courses.

This year, the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) introduced 'Karnataka origin' among the criteria for admission to PG medical and dental courses for aspirants from outside the state.

The notification stated: Candidates should be of Karnataka origin and should have "studied MBBS or BDS degree in a medical or dental college situated in Karnataka or outside and affiliated to any institution established in India as well as recognised by the Medical Council of India or Dental College of India and government of India, and has



EXAM OF CONTENTION

qualified in the NEET for admission to post-graduate medical or dental degree/diploma courses".

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court bench headed by Justices Arun Mishra and Uday Umesh Lalit heard the petition filed by Dr Kriti Lakhina and 39 others. The bench said these eligibility conditions violate their fundamental right to life and equality and is discriminative.

The stay order stated: "We stay the process on or after

March 30, 2018. There shall be no publication of mock allotment results on March 30 and no further proceedings onward shall take place till the judgment is delivered."

Amit Kumar, advocate on record, Supreme Court, said the order is likely to be passed at the earliest. A similar writ petition from Maharashtra too is being heard in the apex court. The Medical Council of India had opposed the order on March 15 and told the SC that seats under the state quota were limited and hence should not be subjected to such conditions. S N Gangadharaiiah, administrative officer, KEA, was not available for comment.

According to the KEA schedule, the next step – publication of mock allotment results – is March 30. The publication of first round allotment result of PG NEET seats was to be on April 5, followed by exercise of choice the next day.

Now, no bridge course for AYUSH docs

Cabinet Strikes The Provision Off NMC Bill

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The amendment to the NMC Bill comes in the backdrop of the recommendations made by a standing committee

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to remove the provision of a bridge course in the National Medical Commission (NMC) bill.

The provision had sought to enable practitioners of alternative medicine to practice modern medicine to a limited extent to deal with acute shortage of doctors in rural areas – which didn't go well with allopathic practitioners and the Indian Medical Association had on Sunday threatened to launch indefinite strike across the country if

the order was not withdrawn.

On Wednesday, a release issued by the government, said the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi has approved certain official amendments to the NMC Bill.

"The provision dealing with the bridge course for Ay-

ush practitioners to practice modern medicine to a limited extent has also been removed. It has been left to the state governments to take necessary measures for addressing and promoting primary health care in rural areas," it stated.

The NMC Bill, 2017, which seeks to replace the existing apex medical education regulator, the Medical Council of India (MCI), with a new body, was moved by the government in Parliament on December 29. Following opposition from the medical fraternity over different provisions of the proposed legislation, one of which was the 'bridge course', the Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Officials said the amendment to the NMC Bill comes in the backdrop of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee in its report tabled in the House on

March 20 and general feedback, particularly the views of medical students and practitioners regarding certain provisions of the Bill.

In its report, the committee had said that the bridge course should not be a mandatory provision under the NMC Bill. "The committee feels that every state has its own specific healthcare issues and challenges. The committee, therefore, recommends that the state governments may implement measures to enhance the capacity of existing healthcare professionals, including AYUSH practitioners, B.Sc (Nursing), BDS, BPharma and others to address their specific primary healthcare issues in rural areas," it said.

The committee recommended penal provisions for those practising medicine without the requisite qualification, which has also been ac-

cepted by the Cabinet. The official amendments to the NMC bill says anyone practising medicine without the requisite degree shall be imprisoned for up to one year along with a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh.

The Cabinet has also decided that the final MBBS examination shall be held as a common exam across the country and would serve as an exit test called the National Exit Test. The original proposal in the NMC Bill tabled in Parliament had provision for a separate exam for students to get licence to practice.

The maximum limit of 40% seats for which the fee would be regulated in private medical institutions and deemed universities has also been increased to 50% seats.

"The NMC will comprise 25 members of which at least 21 will be doctors," a health ministry official said.