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HC stays second round of counselling for PG medical seats

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court stayed the second round of counselling which is about to start for filling the seats of postgraduate medical courses till May 2.

After hearing the petition filed by Dr Rahul Gawalkar and 31 others, a division bench of Justice B S Patil and Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav on Friday passed the interim order directing the Karnataka Examination Authority, Directorate of Medical Education and Medical Council of India not to hold the counselling till May 2.

During the hearing, petitioners counsel Doreraaj contended that if the second round of counselling is proceeded with, without awaiting reversion of seats from cen-

tral government quota and put them into pool for allotment, the option for petitioners to choose the speciality of their choice gets severely affected.

On instructions from the Director of Medical Education, who is present in the court, the Additional Government Advocate Shivaprabhu S Hiremath submitted that the matter pending before the SC involving the question regarding reversion of seats of Central Government Quota is scheduled to be listed on May 1. He further submitted that based on the judgment of the Apex Court, appropriate action in accordance with law would be taken and until then the second round of counselling would be deferred.

The court observed that though several questions are

raised in the writ petitions, "We are of the view that seat sharing arrangement made by publishing seat matrix by the state government prima facie cannot be upset at this stage because the first round of counselling has already been completed and the process of second round of counselling is about to commence".

The grievance made by the petitioners that without the leftover seats from the Central Government Quota put into pool for allotment through second round of counselling, the option of petitioners for different subjects of their choice would be minimised or reduced, has to be taken note of. "Hence, we are of the view that the petitioners cannot be made to lose their option in this connection.", the court said.

Second round of counselling for PG medical courses stayed till May 2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed till May 2 the second round of counselling for selection of candidates to post-graduate medical and dental courses for the academic year 2018-19.

The court directed both the Department of Medical Education (DME) and the Karnataka Examinations Authority, which is conducting the counselling, not to proceed with the second round till May 2.

A Division Bench comprising justices B.S. Patil and Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the interim order on April 27 on a petition filed by 35 medical graduates, Rahul Gawalkar and others.

The petitioners have questioned the seat matrix announced by the DME that leaves about 25% of the total seats in various post-graduate courses for the NRI/management quota, allegedly contrary to the verdict of the court, which had last year has said that only 15% of seats can be earmarked for the NRI/management quota as per the Medical Council of India regulations.

Dore Raj, petitioner's counsel, also contended that the seat matrix has been fixed without waiting for the release of unclaimed seats from the All India quota, and the options to the petitioner candidates to choose the specialty course of their choice gets severely affected

if the second round counselling is proceeded with in the absence of reversion of seats from the All India quota seats by the Central government.

Though the Bench agreed with the petitioners' claim that going ahead with further round of counselling sans reversion of seats from All India quota will impact them, it declined to interfere with the seat matrix announced by the DME as interference at this stage would upset the completed first round.

The Bench adjourned further hearing as the government counsel stated that the reversion of All India quota seats to the States is coming up before the Supreme Court next week.

Now, Swachh Bharat internships for university students

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) will offer "Swachh Bharat Summer Internship - 100 Hours of Swachhata" to students of universities and higher education institutions this academic year.

The internship, meant to improve sanitation and hygiene in villages, will give students a chance to win cash award up to Rs 2 lakh and two academic credits on its completion. The MHRD has already mandated the rules and rewards for undertaking the internship.

In his letter to the heads of universities and higher education institutions, MHRD higher education secretary, R Subrahmanyam wrote, "The internship is open only to the registered students of the higher educational institutions... Each institution is required to assign at least one Nodal Officer who will guide students throughout the internship as per the guidelines enclosed. A website has been developed for the purpose of registration and reporting throughout the internship period..."

An internship report needs to be submitted by the candidate on the online portal in a prescribed format through the supervisor.