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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 28-11-2025

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THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH**WP No. 40674 of 2025****AND****WMP NO. 45598 OF 2025**

Nethra.S

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. State Of Tamilnadu

Rep. By Its Principal Secretary to Government,
Health And Family Welfare Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009

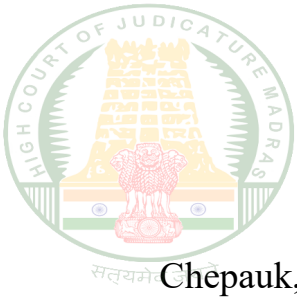
2.The Director Of Medical Education

Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010

3.The Selection Committee

Directorate of Medical Education and Research,
MBBS/BDS Course (Management Quota) Session 2024-2025,
Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.

4.The Director Of Tribal Welfare



Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

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5.The Dean

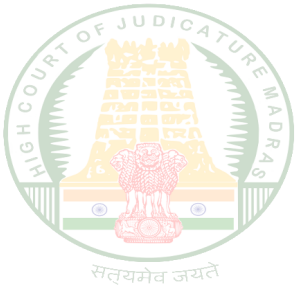
St. Peters Medical College, Hospital
And Research Institute Dr. Mgr Nagar,
Opp. Sipcot Ii, Hosur,
Krishnagiri District -635 130.

..Respondent(s)

PRAYER Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to allow the petitioner to continue and complete the MBBS Course (2024-2025 to 2028-2029) in respect No.5 Medical College without paying any tuition fees.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.M.Radhakrishnan

For Respondent(s): Mr.K.Tippusultan,
Government Advocate
for R1 & R2
Mrs.M.Sneha
Special Counsel
for R3
Mr.N.Naveen Kumar
Government Advocate
for R4



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Mr.Abishek Jenasenan
for R5

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed for issue of writ of mandamus directing the respondents to permit the petitioner to continue and complete the MBBS Course in the 5th respondent College without insisting for payment of any tuition fees.

2. When the writ petition came up for hearing on 05.11.2025, this Court passed the following order:

Mr.Abishek Jenasenan, learned counsel, undertakes to file vakalath for the fifth respondent.

2. Learned Government Advocate appearing for the fourth respondent placed the written instructions received from the fourth respondent.



3. On going through the same, it is seen that the following amounts

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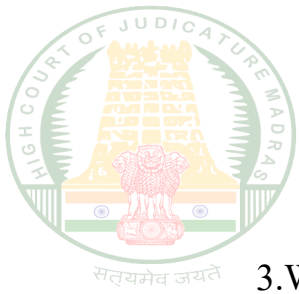
have been sent to the fifth respondent:

ஆ	மாணவர் பெயர்	விவரங்கள்	தொகை மற்றும் தொகை சென்றடைந்த வங்கி கணக்கு எண், வங்கியின் பெயர்
2024-25 (First Year)	எஸ்.நேத்ரா	(பராமரிப்பு படி) மாணவியின் வங்கிகணக்கிற்கு	ரூ 12000/06.03.2025 048310165242 India post payment
		கல்வி கட்டணம் (கல்லூரியின் வங்கிகணக்கிற்கு)	ரூ 6,00,000/- (25/07/ 2025) 7162862855 Indian Bank

CPS MS Transaction Id	Payment	Credit Status	Credited on	Credit Amount	Favoring	Paid to Account	Bank Name
C07251342 2771	NEFT	Credit Success	25-07-2025	1050000	ST PETERS MEDICAL COLL HOSP AND RESEARC H INST TUITION FEE AC	7162862855	INDB

4. Learned counsel for the fifth respondent shall take instructions in
this case.

Post this writ petition on 12.11.2025.



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3. When the matter was again listed for hearing on 19.11.2025, on that day, the following order came to be passed by this Court:

When the matter was taken up for hearing today, the learned Government Advocate appearing on behalf of the 4th respondent produced the written instructions received from the 4th respondent. It is seen that the total amount of Rs.10,50,000/- which was credited towards fees in the account of the 5th respondent college covering two students viz., the petitioner and another student Mahalakshmi. The learned counsel submitted that what was paid towards course fee amount was Rs.6,00,000/- for the petitioner.

2. The learned counsel for the 5th respondent submitted that a total of Rs.21,50,000/- must be paid towards tuition fees and out of this, a sum of Rs.6,00,000/- has been paid by the 4th respondent and the balance of Rs.15.50 lakhs is payable to the 5th respondent college. The learned counsel submitted that either this amount has to be paid by the petitioner or by the official respondent.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner brought to the notice of this Court the notification dated 07.11.2025 issued by the selection committee of the Directorate of Medical Education and Research. On going through the same, it is seen that all the Deans / Vice Principals of Self Financing Medical and Dental colleges have been instructed that candidates belonging to SC/SCA/ST/SCC of the State of Tamil Nadu ,whose parents annual income is



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less than 2.5 lakhs are exempted from payment of Application fee, Security Deposit, Tuition Fee and other non-refundable fee as fixed by the Fee Fixation Committee. The Committee has further stated that any deviation from these instructions will be viewed seriously and strict action will be initiated.

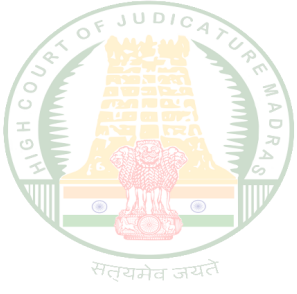
4.The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the petitioner was one of the eligible candidate for the scholarship. The petitioner was accommodated in the 5th respondent college on a lapsed NRI quota. Therefore, whatever tuition fees and other fees is demanded by the 5th respondent is not payable by the petitioner in view of the notification dated 07.11.2025. Hence, the 5th respondent cannot insist that the petitioner must pay a sum of Rs.15.50 lakhs towards tuition fees.

5.On carefully considering the submission made on either side, it is seen that the entire case now hinges upon the scope of the notification dated 07.11.2025 issued by the Directorate of Medical Education and Research.

6.The learned Government Advocate appearing on behalf of the respondents 1 and 2 and the learned Government Advocate appearing on behalf of the 4th respondent shall take instructions in this regard.

7.Post this case under the caption for orders on 24.11.2025.

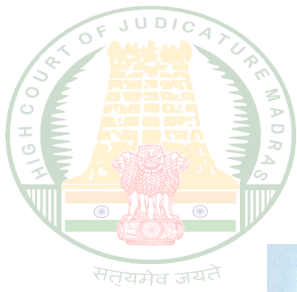
4.The writ petition was again listed for hearing on 24.11.2025 and the following order came to be passed by this Court:



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Pursuant to the earlier order passed by this Court on 19.11.2025, the matter was listed for hearing today.

2. The learned Government Advocate appearing on behalf of fourth respondent produced a communication dated 04.08.2025, addressed to the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, by the fourth respondent. For proper appreciation, the said communication is scanned and extracted hereunder :



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ADI DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL
WELFARE (ADW3) DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-9.

Letter No.3090/ADW-3/2025-1, Dated:04.08.2025

From
Tmt. G. Laxmi Priya, I.A.S.,
Secretary to Government.

To
The Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110 001 (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department – Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes students – Revision of scheme guidelines for the next Finance Commission Cycle (2026-27 to 2030-31) – Remarks of the State – Furnished – Regarding.

Ref: Your Department Letter No.19012/06/2019-Sch (part-1), Dated:16.06.2025.

I am to invite your attention to the reference cited, wherein the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has requested the States / UTs to provide their inputs, observations, and comments for the revision of the guidelines of Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Tribes students for the next Finance Commission Cycle (FY 2026-27 to 2030-31).

2. I am therefore hereby furnishing the following views / remarks of the State of Tamil Nadu and request you to consider the remarks for revision of both Pre Matric and Post Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Tribes students for the next Finance Commission Cycle (FY 2026-27 to 2030-31).

"The Government of Tamil Nadu is executing the Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes in an equivalent manner for both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as supported by the Government of India. Nevertheless, the difference in scholarship amounts (i.e., the scholarship amount is lower for ST compared to SC) results in inequalities among students from both categories who are enrolled in the same school / college. The variation in scholarship amounts may also force the state to implement the same scheme in two separate ways, leading to financial errors and confusion. Given that both the Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for SC and ST are centrally funded, the State has suggested standardizing the scholarship amounts for ST equal to the scholarship amount for SC in both Pre matric and Post matric Scholarship Schemes. The insights regarding the Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST are outlined below:



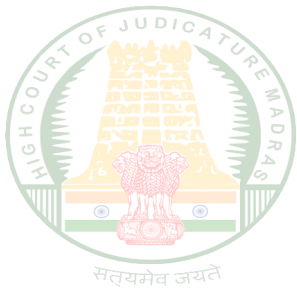
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Pre Matric Scholarship scheme:

Para No.	Guidelines	Remarks of Department																		
3.4	Value of Scholarship (Rs. Per annum) <table> <tr> <th>Students</th><th>Days scholar</th><th>Hosteller</th></tr> <tr> <td>Scholarship</td><td>2250</td><td>5250</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adhoc Grant</td><td>750</td><td>1000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>3000</td><td>6250</td></tr> </table>	Students	Days scholar	Hosteller	Scholarship	2250	5250	Adhoc Grant	750	1000	Total	3000	6250	Pre matric SC students received more scholarship amount than ST students. Scholarship amount fixed by MoSJ&E for SC students are furnished below: (Rs. Per annum) <table> <tr> <th>Students</th><th>Days scholar</th><th>Hosteller</th></tr> <tr> <td>Scholarship</td><td>3500</td><td>7000</td></tr> </table> Scholarship for ST students should be equal to the scholarship provided for SC students.	Students	Days scholar	Hosteller	Scholarship	3500	7000
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Total	3000	6250																		
Students	Days scholar	Hosteller																		
Scholarship	3500	7000																		

Post Matric Scholarship Scheme:

Para No.	Guidelines	Remarks of Department																														
3.4.1 (Note.1)	Fee Component In case of students studying in private sector institutes there will be a ceiling of Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum per student for Engineering Courses and Rs.6.00 lakh per annum for MBBS / MS / MD courses and Rs.1.00 lakh per annum for other courses as far as support of Government of India is concerned.	Scholarship amount ceiling fixed by Gol for Private college students should be removed and to be fixed as per the fee fixed by Fee Fixation Committee constituted by Govt / competent authority.																														
3.4.2	Maintenance allowance – Name changed as stipend and following amount fixed for ST students <table> <tr> <th>Group</th><th>Days Scholar</th><th>Hosteller</th></tr> <tr> <td>Group 1</td><td>12000</td><td>5500</td></tr> <tr> <td>Group 2</td><td>8200</td><td>5300</td></tr> <tr> <td>Group 3</td><td>5700</td><td>3000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Group 4</td><td>3800</td><td>2300</td></tr> </table>	Group	Days Scholar	Hosteller	Group 1	12000	5500	Group 2	8200	5300	Group 3	5700	3000	Group 4	3800	2300	Maintenance allowance - name has been changed as Academic allowance and following amount fixed for SC students <table> <tr> <th>Group</th><th>Days Scholar</th><th>Hosteller</th></tr> <tr> <td>Group 1</td><td>13500</td><td>7000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Group 2</td><td>9500</td><td>6500</td></tr> <tr> <td>Group 3</td><td>6000</td><td>3000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Group 4</td><td>4000</td><td>2500</td></tr> </table>	Group	Days Scholar	Hosteller	Group 1	13500	7000	Group 2	9500	6500	Group 3	6000	3000	Group 4	4000	2500
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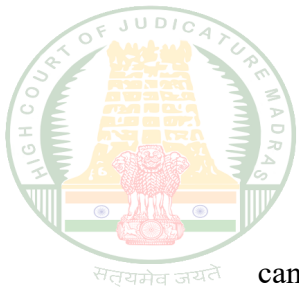
Yours faithfully,

21.07.2025
for Secretary to Government.

Copy to:
The Director,
Tribal Welfare,
Chennai - 600 005.

3. This Court directed the learned Special Counsel appearing on behalf of the second and third respondent to take instructions on the purport of notification issued by the third respondent dated 07.11.2025, which makes it clear that the Self-Financing Colleges cannot demand any upfront fees from the students who are eligible for scholarships and students who belong to SC/SCA/ST/SCC, and any such demand from the institutions will result in initiating strict action.

4. The communication dated 04.08.2025 which was placed before this Court shows that for the medical courses (MBBS / MS /MD) a ceiling has been fixed at Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum, whereas the fees that is payable to the private institutions is Rs.21.50 lakhs. Therefore, the balance amount of Rs.15.50 lakhs is payable to the fifth respondent-College. Obviously, in view of the circular issued by the second respondent, this amount cannot be collected from the petitioner. At the same time, the fifth respondent-College



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cannot be deprived of this amount. Hence, necessary clarification on the above is required in order to enable this Court to pass final orders in this writ petition.

Post this writ petition on 27.11.2025, under the same caption.

5. When the matter was taken up for hearing today, the learned Special Counsel appearing on behalf of the 2nd respondent reiterated the instructions that were given in the Notification dated 07.11.2025. The learned Special Counsel specifically placed reliance upon the letter from the Director, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Chennai dated 21.10.2024, where, the Director has sought for making necessary amendments that all the SC/SCA/ST/SCC students securing admission under MBBS/BDS courses across all quotas with parental income below Rs.2.5 Lakhs, are exempt from paying the security deposit while downloading the allotment order. Pursuant to the same, yet another letter dated 22.10.2024 was addressed by the Director of Adi Dravidar Welfare to the Director of Medical Education, wherein, a clarification was sought for to exempt from payment of any upfront fee from any eligible candidate who get

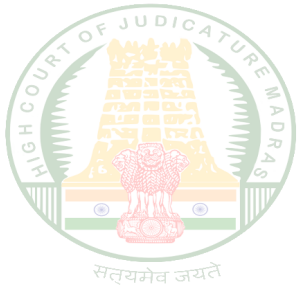


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selected through the single window counselling for all the courses across all quotas.

6. In the light of the above clarification given by the learned Special counsel appearing on behalf of the Director of Medical Education, there shall be a direction to the 4th respondent to follow up with the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, pursuant to the earlier communication dated 04.08.2025 and to ensure that the balance tuition fees to the extent of 15.50 Lakhs is paid by the concerned Department to the 5th respondent as expeditiously as possible and not later than eight weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order. It is made clear that the petitioner will not be made to pay any fees pursuant to the notification issued by the 3rd respondent dated 07.11.2025.

7. This writ petition is disposed of in the above terms. No Costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.



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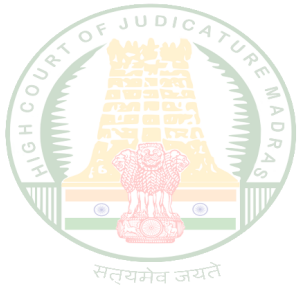
Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet: Yes

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

ssr



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To

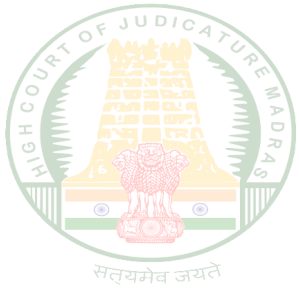
1.Principal Secretary To Government,
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Health And Family Welfare
Department, Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009

2.The Director Of Medical Education
Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010

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District -635 130



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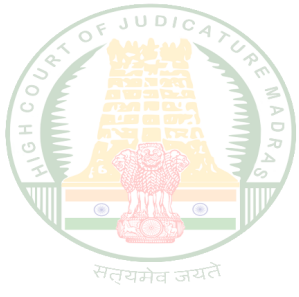
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