



**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

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No.LGS/PR/2017

Dated 16th June, 2017

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The Central Government directed that 50% of seats in Post Graduate Medical Courses in all Self-Financing Medical Colleges including Deemed Universities will be of State / U.T. Government quota. Also, both, Government quota of seats and Management quota of seats will be allotted only by States / UTs through common counselling, based on merit list of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

In the Union Territory of Puducherry, there are seven Private Medical Colleges, of which four are run by Deemed Universities. The Centralized Admission Committee (CENTAC) constituted with the approval of Hon'ble Lt. Governor carried out common counselling to fill up 314 seats in all seven Medical Colleges. After counselling, allotment orders were issued to 257 applicants against 114 Government quota seats and 143 Management quota seats.

Complaints were received from students and parents that Medical Colleges run by Deemed Universities insist for payment of exorbitant fee by students who were allotted seats under the Government quota. Hon'ble Lt. Governor is of the firm view that meritorious students admitted against State quota of seats represent middle class and socially and economically disadvantaged communities and should not be fleeced by charging exorbitant fee by Deemed Universities. Such students should be charged fee only at the rate fixed by Fee Committee for Self-Financing Colleges. Hon'ble Lt. Governor personally visited the colleges and pleaded that the selected Union Territory candidates should be admitted as per the fee fixed by Fee Committee. However, the Deemed Universities had refused to admit students.

In the meanwhile, a Writ Petition (No. 14232 of 2017) in the form of Public Interest Litigation was filed by one Mr. V.B.R. Menon, an advocate in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. The petitioner prayed that Puducherry Union Territory students allotted seats against Government quota in Deemed Universities should

be admitted, pending fixation of fee by Competent Authorities, so that the meritorious students who hail from socially and economically weaker sections of the society of Puducherry and who cannot afford to pay exorbitant fees do not lose the opportunity of getting Post Graduate Medical Education.

Apart from other Government respondents of Central Government and Union Territory Government, Secretary to Lt. Governor has been included as a respondent. Hon'ble Lt. Governor directed Secretary to Lt. Governor to file counter affidavit placing on record the facts and supporting records available with Raj Nivas, in support of the meritorious students of the Union Territory of Puducherry to get the Post Graduate seats allotted to them at a justified fee. The Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Madras, which comprised of Hon'ble Chief Justice Ms. Indira Banerjee and Hon'ble Justice Shri M. Sunder, heard the petitioner and respondents in detail on 13.06.2017 and 15.06.2017, and passed an interim order today, the 16th June, 2017. The following is the gist of the order:

"...Prima facie the court felt that the fee fixed by the Deemed Universities between 40 lakhs to 50 lakhs is arbitrary, exorbitant, unreasonable and prohibitive.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development and University Grants Commission has to expeditiously constitute a committee to look into the fee structure fixed by the Deemed Universities by giving opportunity to the concerned.

The students provisionally allotted admission by CENTAC are given time upto 5.00 p.m. on 19/06/2017 to deposit the fee of Rs. 10 lakhs with CENTAC for the current academic year for securing admissions in the vacancies. The classes would commence for them from 20/06/2017. The CENTAC would communicate to all the students individually about the order. In non-clinical courses, in the extensive vacancies the selected students may join by paying Rs. 3 lakh to 4 lakh as fixed by the Deemed Universities."

The deficiencies noted in the functioning of CENTAC will be got rectified by taking appropriate remedial action. Hon'ble Lt. Governor's office shall continue to address the grievances of the people of the Union Territory.