



महाराष्ट्र शासन



सहसंचालक,तंत्रशिक्षण विभागीय कार्यालय, छत्रपती संभाजीनगर शासकीय तंत्रनिकेतन जवळ, पत्रपेटी क्र.५१६, उस्मानपुरा,छत्रपती संभाजीनगर-४३१ ००५

दुरध्वनी क्र.: (०२४०)२३३४२१६/२३३४७६९

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जाक्र/विकाछसंन/शिक्षण/२०२४/2623281

दिनांकः 23 August २०२४

परिपत्रक ई-मेलद्वारे - महत्वाचे

प्रति,

या विभागाच्या अधिपत्याखालील सर्व शासकीय / अशासकीय अनूदानित शैक्षणिक संस्था/ विनाअनुदानित / कायम विनाअनुदानित संस्थां (छत्रपती संभाजीनगर विभाग)

विषय: रिट याचिका क्र. ५२५७/२०१७ - सुरेखा लक्ष्मण सोनावणे विरुध्द दि स्टेट ऑफ महाराष्ट्र आणि इतर या न्यायालयीन प्रकरणाच्या अनुषंगाने उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभागातर्फे दि.१०.०७.२०२४ रोजी निर्गमित केलेल्या शासन परिपत्रकाप्रमाणे कार्यवाही करणेबाबत.

संदर्भः १. शासन परिपत्रक क्र. न्यायाप्र - २०२४/(प्र.क्र.६६/२४)/तांशि-५ दि. १० जुलै २०२४.

- २. रिट याचिका क्र. ५२५७/२०१७ मध्ये देण्यात आलेले दि. १२ जुलै २०२४ रोजीचे आदेश.
- ३.मा. संचालक, तंत्रशिक्षण संचालनालय,मूंबई यांचे पत्र क्र. १०/एनजीपी/न्या.प्र./परिपत्रक/ २०२४/३५८ दिनांक:७ AUG २०२४

वरील विषय व संदर्भ क्र. ३ च्या मा. संचालक, तंत्रशिक्षण संचालनालय, मुंबई यांच्या पत्राच्या अनूषंगाने या विभागाच्या अधिपत्याखालील सर्व शासकीय / अशासकीय अनुदानित शैक्षणिक संस्था/ विनाअनुदानित / कायम विनाअनुदानित संस्थांमधील सर्व पदविका, पदवी, पदव्यूत्तर पदवी व तत्सम अभ्यासक्रमाच्या संस्था, सर्व विदयापीठे यांना कळविण्यात येते की, संदर्भ क्रमांक १ च्या शासन परित्रकात नमूद निर्देशांचे काटेकोरपणे पालन करण्यात यावे तसेच सदरील शासन परिपत्रकास आपल्या संस्थेमध्ये व्यापक प्रसिध्दी देण्यात यावी व संस्थेच्या संकेतस्थळावर तसेच दर्शनी भागात लावून परिपत्रकातील मुद्यांचे संस्थानी काटेकोर पालन करावे. त्याचप्रमाणे सदर परिपत्रक आपल्या संस्थेच्या/कार्यालयाच्या संकेतस्थळावर व नोटीस बोर्डवर कायमस्वरुपी निदर्शनास येईल याची दक्षता घ्यावी. याबाबत मा.न्यायालयाच्या आदेशाचा अवमान होणार नाही याची दक्षता घेण्यात यावी.

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याउपरही ज्या संस्था सदर शासन परिपत्रकातील नमुद मुद्याचे पालन करीत नाही असे निदर्शनास आल्यावर संबधीत संस्थेवर शासन निर्देशानुसार कडक कारवाई करण्यात येईल यांची गार्भीयांनी नोंद घ्यावी.

्रीबला- वरिल प्रमाग

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(उमेश नागदेवे) सहसंचालक, तंत्रशिक्षण विभागीय कार्यालय, छत्रपती संभाजीनगर

प्रतः १. मा. संचालक, तंत्र शिक्षण संचालनालय, मुंबई – ४०० ००१ यांना माहितीकरीता सविनय सादर २.उपसचिव, तंत्रशिक्षण परीक्षा मंडळ, छत्रपती संभाजीनगर यांना देण्यात येवून सुचीत करण्यात येते की, त्यानी संस्थेच्या दरवर्षी होणा-या बाहय अवेक्षनात सदर परिपत्रकाचे संस्थेमार्फत काटेकोर पालन होते किंवा कसे याबाबत तपासणी करावी तसेच ज्या संस्था सदर शासन परिपत्रकातील नमुद मुद्याचे पालन करीत नाही असे निदर्शनास आल्यावर त्याबाबत आपल्या स्तरावरुन कारवाई करावी तसेच या कार्यालयास अवगत करावे. ३. या कार्यालयाच्या प्रोग्रामर यांना देवून कळविण्यात येते की, सदर परीपत्रक व सोबतचे शासन परीपत्रक या कार्यालयाच्या संकेतस्थळावर प्रसिध्द करावे.

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उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभागाच्या अखत्यारीत असलेल्या अनुदानित शैक्षणिक संस्था (अकृषि विद्यापीठे, अनुदानित महाविद्यालये, अनुदानित अभिमत व समूह विद्यापीठे व त्यांची घटक महाविद्यालये, अनुदानित तंत्र शिक्षण महाविद्यालये/ संस्था, डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर तंत्रशिक्षण विद्यापीठे-लोणेरे, सी.ओ.ई.पी. तंत्रज्ञान विद्यापीठ, अनुदानित कला संस्था, आय.सी.टी. विद्यापीठ, डॉ.होमी भाभा राज्य विद्यापीठ, एल.आय.टी. विद्यापीठ, डॉ.होमी भाभा राज्य विद्यापीठ, एल.आय.टी. अभिनव तंत्रज्ञान विद्यापीठ) व विनाअनुदानित/कायम विनाअनुदानित संस्थांमधील सर्व पदवी, पदविका, पदव्युत्तर पदवी व तत्सम अभ्यासक्रमाच्या संस्थांमध्ये विद्यार्थ्यांना वैद्यकीय सोयीसूविधा पुरविणेबाबत.

महाराष्ट्र शासन उच्च व तंत्र शिक्षण विभाग, शासन परिपत्रक क्र.न्यायाप्र-२०२४/(प्र.क्र.६६/२४)/तांशि-५ मंत्रालय विस्तार भवन,मादाम कामा मार्ग, हुतात्मा राजगुरु चौक, मुंबई .४०००३२ दिनांक-: १० जुलै.२०२४,

<u>संदर्भ</u> = संचालक, तंत्र शिक्षण संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, मुंबई यांचे पत्र क्रमांक १०/ एनजीपी/ न्या.प्र./आ.सु/२०२४/२९३, दिनांक ०५.०७.२०२४.

प्रस्तावना -:

राज्यातील उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभागाच्या अखत्यारीत असलेल्या सर्व शैक्षणिक संस्थांमध्ये पदवी, पदविका, पदव्युत्तर पदवी व तत्सम अभ्यासक्रमाच्या शिक्षणाकरीता विद्यार्थी दररोज किमान सहा ते सात तास उपस्थित असतात. काही विद्यार्थ्यांना या कालावधीत तातडीच्या वैद्यकीय उपचारांची गरज भासू शकते. यावेळी संस्थेने उचित व तातडीने कार्यवाही केल्यास विद्यार्थ्याला तात्काळ वैद्यकीय मदत मिळुन अप्रिय घटना टाळता येवू शकते. विद्यार्थ्यांना तात्काळ वैद्यकीय मदत पुरविण्यासाठी संस्थेतील प्राचार्य, शिक्षक,कर्मचारी व विद्यार्थी सहका-यांनी त्याबाबतीत नेहमी सजग असणे आवश्यक आहे. उपरोक्त बाबींचा विचार करता उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभागाच्या अखत्यारीत असलेल्या सर्व पदवी, पदविका, पदव्युत्तर पदवी व तत्सम अभ्यासक्रमाच्या सर्व संस्थांनी विद्यार्थ्यांना तातडीच्या काळात वैद्यकीय सुविधा देण्याबाबत कार्यवाही करण्याच्या सुचना निर्गमित करण्याची बाब शासनाच्या विचाराधिन होती. **शासन परिपत्रक -:**

उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभागाच्या अखत्यारीत असलेल्या अनुदानित शैक्षणिक संस्था (अकृषि विद्यापीठे, अनुदानित महाविद्यालये, अनुदानित अभिमत विद्यापीठे, अनुदानित समूह विद्यापीठे व त्यांची घटक महाविद्यालये, अनुदानित तंत्र शिक्षण महाविद्यालये/ संस्था डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर तंत्रशिक्षण विद्यापीठे-लोणेरे, सी.ओ.ई.पी. तंत्रज्ञान विद्यापीठ, अनुदानित कला संस्था, आय.सी.टी. विद्यापीठ, डॉ.होमी भाभा राज्य विद्यापीठ, एल.आय.टी. अभिनव तंत्रज्ञान विद्यापीठ) व विनाअनुदानित/कायम विनाअनुदानित संस्थांमधील सर्व पदवी, पदविका, पदव्युत्तर पदवी व तत्सम अभ्यासक्रमाच्या विद्यार्थ्यांना तातडीच्या काळात वैद्यकीय सोयीसुविधा देण्यासाठी संस्थांना खालीलप्रमाणे कार्यवाही करण्याच्या सूचना देण्यात येत आहेत.

शासन परिपत्रक क्रमांकः **न्यायाप्र-२०२४/(प्र.क्र.६६/२४) तांशि-५**

- संस्थेत शिकत असलेल्या विद्यार्थ्यांचा शासनाच्या योजने अंतर्गत अथवा इतर उपक्रमांतर्गत विमा काढण्यात यावे. या संदर्भात शासनाने उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभाग, शासन निर्णय दि.२५.०८.२०११ व दि.१६.१०.२०२३ अन्वये दिलेल्या निर्देशानुसार कार्यवाही करावी.
- संस्थेत संबंधित प्राधिकरणांच्या मानकांनुसार first aid cum sick room (अंदाजे २० चौ.मी.) क्षेत्रफळ आवश्यक आहे. तसेच सदर रुम मध्ये तातडीने प्रथमोपचाराकरीता आजारी विद्यार्थ्यांना तातडीची वैद्यकीय व्यवस्था करण्यासाठी लागणाऱ्या सोयीसुविधा उपलब्ध करण्यात यावी.
- ३. संस्थेतील सर्व विभागांमध्ये तात्काळ प्रथमोपचारासाठी प्रथमोपचार किट उपलब्ध करण्यात यावे.
- विद्यार्थी तसेच संस्थेतील कर्मचाऱ्यांकरीता दरवर्षी कमीत कमी एक वैद्यकीय प्रथमोपचार प्रशिक्षण व वैद्यकीय तपासणी शिबीर आयोजित करण्यात यावे.
- ५. सदर प्रशिक्षणामध्ये कृत्रिम श्वासोश्वास (Artificial Respiration) तसेच इतर तातडीचे प्रथमोपचार देणेबाबत त्यांना प्रशिक्षित करण्यात यावे.
- ६. संस्थेच्या जवळपास उपलब्ध असलेल्या शासकीय रुग्णालय, शासकीय आरोग्य केंद्र, खाजगी दवाखाने यांचे संपर्क क्रमांक ठळक अक्षराल दर्शनीभागात दर्शविण्यात यावेत व त्यांचेशी समन्वये ठेवण्यात यावा. तसेच शासकीय (१०८) व सार्वजनिक रुग्णवाहिकांचे संपर्क क्रमांक सुध्दा दर्शविण्यात यावेत.
- ७. आपत्कालीन परिस्थिती उद्भवल्यास सदर परिस्थिती हाताळण्यासाठी संस्थास्तरावर एक ते दोन समन्वयक नेमण्यात यावेत. त्यांना प्रथमोपचाराचे प्रशिक्षण देण्यात यावे.
- ८. आपत्कालीन परिस्थितीत सदर समन्वयकांने रुग्णास तात्काळ उपचार मिळण्याच्या दृष्टीने रुग्णालयांशी संपर्क साधावा व आजारी विद्यार्थ्यांस रुग्णालयात भरती करण्यास मदत करावी.
- संस्थेने संस्थेच्या तजीकच्या दवाखान्याशी तसेच जवळपास रहाणाऱ्या/ असणाऱ्या डॉक्टरांची On-call सेवा उपलब्ध करुन देण्याबाबत सामंजस्य करार करावेत व विद्यार्थ्यांना डॉक्टर On-call सुविधा उपलब्ध करुन द्यावी.
- १०.आपत्कालीन परिस्थितीकरीता विद्यार्थ्यांना रुग्णालयात नेण्याची गरज भासल्यास संस्थेत वाहनाची उपलब्धतता असावी.
- ११.विद्यार्थ्यांकरीता संस्थास्तरावर तणावमुक्तीसाठी कार्यशाळा आणि इतर उपक्रमाचे आयोजन करण्यात यावे. विद्यार्थ्यांचे मानसिक आरोग्य चांगले ठेवण्यासाठी समुपदेशक (Counsellor) ची व्यवस्था करण्यात यावी.

वरील सर्व कार्यवाही करून संस्थाप्रमुख/प्राचार्य यांनी संबंधित सहसंचालक यांच्याकडे एका महिन्यात मुद्देनिहाय पुर्तता अहवाल सादर करावा.

सदर शासन परिपत्रक महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या <u>www.maharashtra.gov.in</u> या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करुन देण्यात आले असून त्याचा संकेतांक २०२४०७१०१२५७४३६१०८ असा आहे. हा आदेश डिजीटल स्वाक्षरीने साक्षांकित करुन काढण्यात येत आहे.

महाराष्ट्राचे राज्यपाल यांच्या आदेशानुसार व नावाने.

AJAY VITTHAL **KHARDE**

(अजय वि. खर्डे) कार्यासन अधिकारी , महाराष्ट्र शासन

प्रति,

9. मा.मंत्री (उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभाग) यांचे खाजगी सचिव, मंत्रालय, मुंबई.

२. प्रधान सचिव, उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभाग, मंत्रालय, मुंबई.

पृष्ठ ३ पैकी २

शासन परिपत्रक क्रमांकः **न्यायाप्र-२०२४/(प्र.क्र.६६/२४) तांशि-५**

३. कुलगुरु, सर्व अकृषि विद्यापीठे,

४. कुलगुरु, सर्व अभिमत विद्यापीठे,

५. कुलगुरु, डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर तंत्र शिक्षण विद्यापीठ-लोणेरे,

६. कुलगुरु, सी.ओ.ई.पी. तंत्रज्ञान विद्यापीठ, पुणे,

७. कुलगुरु, आय.सी.टी. विद्यापीठ,

८. कुलगुरु, डॉ. होभी भाभा राज्य विद्यापीठ, मुंबई.

९. कुलगुरु, एल.आय.टी. अभिनव विद्यापीठ, नागपूर.

१०. संचालक, तंत्रशिक्षण संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, मुंबई,

११. संचालक, उच्च शिक्षण , महाराष्ट्र राज्य, पुणे.

१२.कला संचालक, कला संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, मुंबई,

9३.संचालक, महाराष्ट्र राज्य तंत्रशिक्षण मंडळ, मुंबई

१४. सर्व विभागीय सहसंचालक, उच्च शिक्षण,

१५. सर्व विभागीय सहसंचालक, तंत्र शिक्षण,

१६.कुलसचिव, सर्व अकृषि, विद्यापीठे,

१७.कुलसचिव, सर्व अभिमत विद्यापीठे,

१८.कुलसचिव, डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर तंत्र शिक्षण विद्यापीठ- लोणेरे.

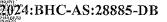
१९.कुलसचिव, सी. ओ.ई. पी. तंत्रज्ञान विद्यापीठ, पुणे.

२०.कुलसचिव, आय. सी. टी. विद्यापीठ.

२९.कुलसचिव, डॉ. होमी भाभा राज्य विद्यापीठ, मुंबई.

२२.कुलसचिव, एल आय. टी. अभिनव विद्यापीठ, नागपूर.

२३.निवड नस्ती/तांशि-५.







.... Petitioner

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

1

WRIT PETITION NO. 5257 OF 2017

Surekha Luxman Sonovane, Age 40 Years, Occu: Housewife, R/o. Gorai, 602, Sai Darshan CHS, Plot No. 31, Gorai-1, Boriwali West, Mumbai 400 091

Versus

 The State of Maharashtra, The Principal Secretary of Higher Technical Education Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 001

- The State of Maharashtra, The Principal Secretary of Education Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai 400 001.
- The Director of Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education Maharashtra State, 412-E, Shivaji Nagar, Bahirat Patil Chowk, Pune 411 016.
- 4. The Principal of the Thakur Polytechnic College, Thakur Complex, West to Western Express Highway, Kandivli East, Mumbai 400 101.
- 5. Wockhardt Super Specialty Hospital, Near Railway Station, Mira Road (E), Dist. Thane, Maharashtra.

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Surbhi Life Care Hospital,
 90 Fit Road, Kandiwali (East),
 Mumbai 400 101.

.. Respondents

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Mr.Milind A. Ingole for the Petitioner.

Mr.P.P.Kakade, Government Pleader with Ms.T.J.Kapre, AGP for Respondent Nos. 1 and 2-State.

2

Mr. Rajshekhar V. Govilkar, Senior Advocate for Respondent No.3.

Mr.Mahendra M. Agavekar with Ms.Shraddha Chavan for Respondent No.4- College.

Mr.Jaydeep Deo, Appointed as Amicus Curiae.

CORAM : NITIN JAMDAR, AND M.M. SATHAYE, JJ.

DATE: 12 July 2024.

JUDGMENT (Per: Nitin Jamdar, J.)

Rule. Rule made returnable forthwith. The Respondents waive service.

2. This petition involves an individual tragedy and raises significant concerns regarding the availability and adequacy of first aid and medical facilities in the educational Institutes in the State. Trupti ·

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3. Petitioner's daughter Tejuswini was a final-year diploma student at Respondent No.4, Polytechnic College in Kandivali, Mumbai. She had good academic record and actively participated in extracurricular activities. On 22 February 2016, Tejuswini collapsed in her classroom, hit her head against the benches and lost consciousness. She was brought down from the 6th floor in a wheelchair and taken to nearby hospitals, where she passed away due to a haemorrhage.

4. The Petitioner has filed this petition alleging negligence on the part of Respondent No. 4 in the Polytechnic College where Tejuswini was enrolled and Respondent Nos. 5 and 6, the hospitals where she was admitted. She alleges that the College lacked adequate medical facilities, including an ambulance, and that there was an unacceptable delay in transporting her daughter to the hospital. The Petitioner further asserts that timely medical treatment could have saved her daughter's life. The Petitioner seeks a direction for stringent action against Respondent Nos. 4, 5, and 6 for medical negligence and requests these Respondents to provide compensation of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Petitioner for the death of her daughter.

5. The learned Counsel for the Respondent college argued that all reasonable measures within the capacity of the College to prevent the unfortunate incident were undertaken. The College argued that

Tejuswini had pre-existing health conditions, suggesting that her death could not solely be attributed to the actions or omissions of the College. The College disputed the allegation of negligence by its employees. Additionally, the Respondent college has submitted that under the Mandatory Student Insurance Policy, an insurance company disbursed Rs. 50,000 to the Petitioner-mother. Also, the College incurred Rs. 1,30,000 towards the hospital expenses for the deceased and refunded all fees paid by the Petitioner-mother for the three-year duration. The Respondent College has placed on record the proceedings taken out by the Petitioner before the Human Rights Commission, Maharashtra.

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6. The Petitioner had initiated proceedings before the Human Rights Commission, Maharashtra making the same grievance. The Commission held that there was no evidence of failure on the part of any Respondents in providing proper treatment to the deceased. It was noted that Tejuswini suffered a stroke and was promptly taken to the nearest hospital within 20 minutes, and the Human Rights Commission concluded that there was no negligence on the part of the Respondent College.

7. In writ jurisdiction it is not possible for us to adjudicate on the seriously disputed factual issues as to whether the deceased had preexisting conditions and to what extent it was the role of the Respondents and to grant relief of damages. The claim falls in the

realm of tort law. The Petitioner's claim for action and damages is negatived.

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8. However, the petition has also raised a larger issue. The Petitioner has sought a direction for Respondent No. 1, the Principal Secretary of the Higher and Technical Education Department; Respondent No. 2, the Principal Secretary of the Education Department; and Respondent No. 3, the Director of the Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education, to issue directives to the respective Government Education Departments to ensure adequate medical facilities and equipment are available in colleges and schools. Having recorded that these prayers justified further consideration, we called upon the State to respond to these prayers by order dated 22 April 2024. Considering the importance of the issue we called upon the learned Government Pleader to appear and assist the Court. We also requested Mr. Jaydeep Deo, the learned Advocate, to act as Amicus Curiae to assist the Court.

9. The issue raised by the Petitioner of providing first aid and medical facilities in educational Institutes such as polytechnics is of importance. Educational Institutes in larger cities have a substantial strength of students and staff members who spend a considerable portion of their day away from their homes. Medical emergencies can occur due to the commuting requirements (especially in Mumbai) and diverse activities within these institutions. While some

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institutions may have their arrangements or provide ad-hoc responses by transporting patients to the nearest hospital during emergencies, delays in timely medical treatment can lead to fatal results. Relying solely on ad-hoc responses for medical emergencies is inadequate. A structured approach and mandates of law are required to ensure basic medical facilities are readily available on the premises. This necessitates directives from state authorities, with clear consequences for non-compliance, to ensure that educational Institutes adhere to standards that deal with the medical emergencies of their students and staff.

10. The learned Amicus has placed on record AICTE Approval Handbooks and UGC [Affiliation of Colleges Offering Technical Education By Universities] Regulations, 2014. The learned Amicus has drawn our attention to the AICTE Approval Handbooks for the years 2023-24 and 2024-27 for our consideration. Appendix 6 of these Handbooks outlines the norms for essential and desirable requirements of technical institutions. Clause 6.1 of Appendix 6 specifies the essential requirements for technical institutions, which include provisions for first aid, medical facilities, and counselling services. Details regarding these requirements are provided in a checklist that is verified by the Expert Visit Committee. According to Clause 13.2(9), the Expert Visit Committee has to physically verify the existence of a first aid cum sick room. Additionally, Clause 13.2(16) stipulates that the Expert Visit Committee should examine

documentation regarding the details and evidence of medical facilities and counselling arrangements, as well as any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with nearby hospitals or clinics, or the appointment of a doctor and nurse on campus, along with proof of compliance with first aid standards.

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11. The State of Maharashtra, however, had not issued any directions to educational Institutes regarding the medical facilities. The educational Institutes in the State are regulated by the Higher Education Department and the and Technical Education Department under the governing statutes and Resolutions. The State Government has the power to issue directions to these educational Institutes. Copies of the orders passed in the petition, therefore, were directed to be sent to the Principal Secretary of the Higher and Technical Education Department and the Education Department of the State of Maharashtra to provide information on whether any directives have been issued to educational Institutes regarding providing basic medical facilities. It is thereafter, during today's hearing, the learned Government Pleader placed on record the Circular dated 10 July 2024 issued by the Higher and Technical Education Department. The learned Government Pleader informed the Court that the Education Department of the State of Maharashtra is issuing a Circular similar to the one issued by the Higher and Technical Education on 10 July 2024.

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12. The Circular dated 10 July 2024 issued by the Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra, states that a large number of students enrolled in degree, postgraduate, and diploma courses spend approximately 6 to 7 hours daily on campus, making immediate medical assistance necessary. Consequently, all colleges are mandated to provide basic medical care. The Circular directs all educational institutes under the Higher and Technical Education Department of the Government of Maharashtra to implement several key measures. These include compulsory student insurance as per Government Resolutions dated 25 August 2011 and 16 October 2023. Additionally, each institute must establish a first aid cum sick room of at least 20 square meters equipped with immediate first aid facilities and ensure that first aid kits are readily available in all departments. Furthermore, Institutes are instructed to organise medical first aid training and annual medical examination camps for students and staff, with specific training in artificial respiration. Display boards listing ambulance services and nearby private hospitals must be prominently displayed on campus. To manage emergencies effectively, one or two designated coordinators are to be appointed and trained to coordinate with hospitals and facilitate student admissions during situations. The Institutes are required to establish critical collaborations with local doctors to provide on-call medical services, ensuring that doctors are available to respond promptly to student

needs. Provisions for emergency vehicles should be made to facilitate the transportation of patients to hospitals when required. These directives apply to all educational Institutes under the Higher and Technical Education Department of the Government of Maharashtra. The Circular has been sent to non-agricultural universities, deemed universities, and other specified institutes for immediate compliance.

9

13. We note, however that the Circular dated 10 July 2024 does not stipulate any specific consequences for non-compliance. Though we expect that the educational Institutes will take the stipulation in the Circular positively, consequences for non-compliance need to be stipulated. Students spend a significant portion of their time under the care of these institutes, and it is incumbent upon them to take practical and feasible efforts in medical emergencies. The State should evolve mechanisms to monitor the functionality of medical facilities to ensure the effective implementation of the Circular. This could involve visits to educational Institutes. The learned Government Pleader states that necessary instruction would be issued. The State Government can issue mandatory directives requiring educational Institutes to prominently display posters emphasising basic medical facilities, helplines, and toll-free numbers for assistance. The State Government can establish a dedicated helpline number and social media handle/presence through which students, parents, and staff members can report deficiencies in

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medical facilities in their Institutes directly to the State authorities. The State should publicise this initiative through traditional media and social media platforms, which can raise awareness about the importance of basic medical facilities within educational Institutes. Proactive measures by educational institutes, monitored by the state government and the AICTE, should be taken to safeguard the health and safety of students and staff. Since the learned Government Pleader states that the Education Department, Government of Maharashtra is also issuing a Circular on similar lines, it is necessary that a time limit be placed for the issuance of this Circular and similar directions for its compliance.

14. In light thereof, we dispose of the writ petition with the following directions:

- (i) The Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra, will issue necessary instructions to all the educational Institutes covered by the Circular dated 10 July 2024 specifying the course of action within the bounds of law in case of failure to adhere to the directions in Circular dated 10 July 2024.
- (ii) The Higher and Technical Education Department will give wide publicity to the Circular dated 10 July 2024 through media, social media or on its website.

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(iii) The Higher and Technical Education Department will also provide a helpline number and social media presence so that the students, parents and staff members can point out the nonsupply of medical facilities as per the Circular dated 10 July 2024 in their educational Institutes.

11

- (iv) In light of the statement made by the learned Government Pleader that the Education Department, Government of Maharashtra, is in the process of issuing a circular similar as the Circular dated 10 July 2024 issued by the Higher and Technical Education Department. The Education Department will issue such a Circular within one month from today.
- (v) The directions issued to the Higher and Technical Education
 Department as above will be applicable to the Education
 Department.

15. Rule made absolute in the above terms. Other reliefs sought by the petitioner are rejected. The writ petition is accordingly disposed of.

16. The assistance rendered by the learned Amicus Curiae is appreciated.

(M.M. SATHAYE, J.)

(NITIN JAMDAR, J.)