

2025 LiveLaw (SC) 1133

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
B.R. GAVAI; CJI., VIJAY BISHNOI; J.**

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal © No(s). 26461/2024

VEDKUMAR *versus* THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA & ORS.

Scheduled Tribe Claim – Dismissal of claim after completing medical education – Petitioner admitted to MBBS course against a Scheduled Tribe seat on the basis of a 'Mannervarlu' Tribe claim – Scrutiny Committee dismissed the claim while proceedings were pending and education was completed – Whether the completed education should be protected - Held that considering the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case, and particularly taking into account that the precious medical education would go waste if protection is not granted, the Supreme Court was inclined to protect the education undertaken by the petitioner - The education undertaken for the MBBS Degree shall stand protected as he had already completed course during pendency of proceedings - It was clarified that the petitioner shall not hereinafter claim any benefit on the basis of him belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category. [Paras 4, 5]

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 20-08-2024 in WP No. 7839/2020 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay at Aurangabad]

For Petitioner(s): Mr. Sudhanshu S Choudhari, Sr. Adv., Mr. R.K. Mendadkar, Adv., Mr. Vatsalya Vigya, AOR Ms. Pranjal Chapalgaonkar, Adv., Ms. Gautam Yadav, Adv., Mr. Yash Singhania, Adv.

For Respondent(s): Mr. Adarsh Dubey, Adv., Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv., Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv., Mr. Suhaskumar Kadam, Adv., M/S. Black & White Solicitors, AOR

ORDER

1. The petition arises out of peculiar facts. The petitioner was admitted in Respondent No.3/College in MBBS course against the seat reserved for Scheduled Tribe on the basis of his claim that he belongs to the 'Mannervarlu' Tribe.
2. It appears that during the pendency of the proceedings before the Scrutiny Committee, the petitioner completed his education. In the meantime, the claim of the petitioner as Scheduled Tribe came to be dismissed.
3. At this stage, the seat on which the petitioner has completed the education cannot be allotted to anyone. Learned senior counsel for the petitioner states that the petitioner has paid fees, as are payable by a candidate from open category.
4. In that view of the matter, in the peculiar facts and circumstances and particularly taking into consideration the fact that the precious medical education would go waste, if protection is not granted to him. We are inclined to protect the education undertaken by the petitioner.
5. Therefore, the education undertaken by the petitioner for the MBBS Degree shall stand protected. However, it is clarified that the petitioner shall not hereinafter claim any benefit on the basis of him belonging to Scheduled Tribe category.
6. The special leave petition is, accordingly, disposed of.
7. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.