

WHAT STEPS TAKEN BY THE RAILWAYS TO CONVERT COACHES INTO QUARANTINE CENTRES? BOMBAY HIGH COURT ORDER

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The Bombay High Court asked the Union of India to file an affidavit indicating steps by the central Railway to convert coaches into isolation/quarantine centers while hearing the PIL seeking directions for better control and management of COVID-19 in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice M S Karnik heard through videoconference a PIL by one Naresh Kapoor filed through advocates Prerak Choudhary and Jigar Kamdar raising various concerns on COVID-19 treatment.

In the PIL it has also been mentioned that hospitals, nursing homes, dispensaries which are presently closed either due to departmental orders or judicial orders, should be reopened to meet the needs of patients who have been tested positive for the COVID-19. The petitioner has further mentioned that there is shortage of beds in the hospitals this time it becomes a big concern to maintain the social distancing as well as give full treatments to the patient so that they can recover fast.

Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni for the state placed before the court the circular issued by the state in view of the advisory of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) issued on June 14 on the use of rapid antigen detection test for Covid-19. The lawyer for the petitioner agreed that several concerns expressed by his client were addressed by the circular. Then the Bombay HC has clearly mentioned that the status regarding the beds in the hospitals were already discussed and to convert the railways to convert coaches into the isolation and the quarantine section will be seen. So, at last it was said that Union of India will file an affidavit indicating therein the steps taken by the western railways as well as the central railways.

On this matter further hearing will be there and the date is given is July 2.