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Abhay Mohan v. Union of India and others

Present: Mr. Prateek Gupta, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Arun Gosain, Senior Govt. Counsel for the respondents.

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Case has been heard through Video Conferencing on account of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Grievance of the petitioner is that he was not able to apply for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UG), 2020 as he got admission in Carleton College, Northfield, MN, USA commencing in September, 2020 However, due to outbreak of Covid Pandemic, entry to borders of various countries were sealed. In the meanwhile, he noticed a tweet made by the Education Minister of India in the following terms:-

"Students who dropped the idea to study abroad, here is your chance to pursue your studies in India.

I have advised @ DG-NTA to give one more opportunity to students to submit new/complete online application form for JEE (Main) 2020. Hurry! Forms available till 24th May."

He had a legitimate expectation that the same facility as above would be extended to aspiring students of medical stream. Under normal circumstances, we would not have taken the tweet into consideration but it is being noticed that tweets by the official authorities are now started occupying the importance of official declarations. We are not aware whether such declarations are backed by any official file in which the entire issue is dealt with.

Faced with this situation, learned counsel for the respondents prays for some time to seek instructions. However, we feel that as an interim measure, they would accept the application with the accompanying documents to be submitted by the petitioner. This interim measure shall, however, be subject to the final outcome of the writ petition.

To come up on 7.9.2020.

(RAJAN GUPTA) JUDGE

August 28, 2020 gbs

(KARAMJIT SINGH) JUDGE