

## SC clears single entrance test for medical courses

**Dhananjay Mahapatra TNN**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday gave an important clarification that will enable the Medical Council of India (MCI) to go ahead with its plan to conduct a single common entrance test (CET) for MBBS and post-graduate seats in all government and private medical colleges from next year, i.e. the 2011-12 academic session.

Appearing for the MCI governing council, senior advocate Amarendra Saran informed a bench comprising Justices R V Raveendran and A K Patnaik that the regulator was not issuing the notification for single CET because of pendency of petitions in the Supreme Court.

The bench clarified that “pendency of petitions will not stand in the way of MCI notifying the new regulations (proposing single CET) and others from challenging the notification (subsequently)”. This will allow MCI to notify its regulations envisaging single CET for MBBS and PG courses in all medical colleges from 2011.

Once MCI issues the notification, there will be a single entrance examination each for MBBS and MD courses offered by all 271 medical colleges—138 run by governments and 133 under private management. These colleges offer over 31,000 seats for MBBS courses and another 11,000 seats for PG degrees.

Saran, aided by petitioner Simran Jain’s counsel A D N Rao, had pleaded for a single common entrance test, arguing that it would protect students from the harassment of having to appear in 10 to 15 entrance tests every year. **UNIFIED ACCESS**

There are 144 government medical colleges with a total intake of 16,398 students. There are 170 private institutes with 19,085 seats—of these, close to 50 are deemed universities

**At present, there are a huge number of separate entrance tests for MBBS aspirants**

The biggest entrance test is conducted by CBSE and is meant for admission to 15% all-India quota in every government-run institute. Close to 2 lakh candidates sit for it CET conducted by state govts Pvt colleges in every state jointly hold an entrance test Every deemed university also has an entrance test In Maharashtra, most students sit for at least 13 entrance tests

**FUTURE STREAMLINED**

Students will now have to sit for a single exam for admission to all medical colleges, govt and private **‘Nat’l, state med merit lists by NEET’**

CI clarified that state M quota would remain intact as a ‘National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test’ (NEET) would draw up a national merit list as well as state-wise ranking list for general category, SC, ST and OBC, as well as physically challenged persons. The MCI proposal had said: “In order to be eligible for admissions to MBBS courses for a particular academic year, it shall be necessary for a candidate to obtain minimum 50% marks in each paper of NEET held for the said academic year. For candidates belonging to SC, ST and OBC, the minimum percentage of marks shall be 40% in each paper...”