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Friday: 06:32 hrs

SUNSET
Thursday: 18:21 hrs

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Sweeper performs ECG at Shatabdi hosp: BMC fined ₹12L for human rights violation

Vijay V. Singh@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) has imposed a penalty of Rs 12 lakh on BMC for operating an ECG machine using a sweeper at Pt Madan Mohan Malviya Shatabdi Hospital in Chembur, instead of a trained technician.

The BMC team informed the commission that the technician post had been vacant for the past year, compelling them to assign a "trained employee" to operate the ECG machine. However, BMC did not provide details regarding the training received by the "employee".

MSHRC took up the issue after receiving a complaint from a woman who had also included a photograph showing a sweeper performing an ECG on a patient at the hospital.

MSHRC chairperson Justice A. M. Badar directed the BMC commissioner to immediately appoint a trained ECG technician and to pay Rs 12 lakh as compensation for violating human rights and negligence in protecting the rights of numerous patients at the hospital over the past year. The compensation is to be paid to the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority.

MSHRC remarked, "Sanitary workers of Shatabdi Hospital, run by BMC, are taking ECG of patients. Considering these grave and serious allega-

MSHRC: APPOINT TRAINED TECHNICIAN

The Test

> An ECG (electrocardiogram) is a non-invasive test that records the heart's electrical activity

> It diagnoses heart attacks, irregular heartbeats, among other issues

> For the test, electrodes are placed on the skin of the chest, arms, and legs of the patient

> These electrodes capture electrical signals, which appear as waves on a screen

BMC's recruitment rules clearly mention the post of an ECG technician

> Previously candidates could have completed BSc (Physics), passed inter science examination and completed a nine-month of electronic training, or an SSC pass with five years



experience in electronics who has passed the electronics exam conducted in municipal medical college/hospital

> Now, the preferred course is a bachelor's in paramedical technology, or BSc (Physics) or various levels of technical exams held by govt

What BMC said at state human rights commission's hearing

> When MSHRC asked the civic officer present to clarify the term "trained employee", a BMC doctor responded that it referred to a "ward boy who has been working at the hospital for a long period and can perform this work"

tions, it was expected of the municipal commissioner to conduct a fact-finding inquiry personally as the subject matter of the complaint is related to the human life of thousands of patients.... This was not done, indicating apathy of the civic servant in protecting the right to life."

BMC stated that the techni-

handle ECG machines. The commission expressed concerns that similar situations might persist in other civic hospitals in the city.

MSHRC noted in its order, "Hospitals are bound to recruit trained staff for handling sensitive medical equipment which may give wrong results if managed by untrained workers, and such eventuality can cost a patient's life."

Upon receiving the complaint related to Shatabdi Hospital, the commission had previously directed BMC to conduct a fact-finding inquiry to ascertain the facts. Instead, the chief medical officer submitted an obdurate opinion stating that there was no ECG technician and that the work was carried out by a "trained employee".

During the hearing, MSHRC asked the civic officer present to clarify the term "trained employee". A BMC doctor responded that it referred to a "ward boy who has been working at the hospital for a long period and can perform this work". MSHRC concluded in its order, "This reminds of the situation in some parts of the country where medical treatment is given by quacks known as Zola Chapp Doctors, but this commission never even dreamed of such a situation prevailing in a hospital run by one of the richest municipal corporations in the country"

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the Shiv Sena represented the will of the Shiv Sena. In his ruling on the disqualification petitions, the Speaker did not disqualify any MLAs belonging to the rival camps.

The Speaker's ruling further cemented Shinde's position as then CM, 18 months after he led a rebellion against Thackeray, and added to his political heft in the coalition, which also comprised BJP and the NCP (Ajit Pawar group) ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the Maharashtra assembly elections. **PH**

Nod to travel abroad: Give details of 'business trip', HC tells Shilpa & Raj

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Wednesday sought details on an affidavit from actor Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra on why she needs to go abroad and include formal communications about her "business trip".

The couple had petitioned HC for permission to travel to Colombo and other locations. They need court permission since there is a lookout notice (LOC) against them in an al-

leged Rs 60 crore fraud case. They filed a petition seeking quashing of the LOC.

When their counsel, Niranjan Mundargi, sought permission, citing a business trip, a bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekar and Justice Gautam Ankhad asked for details on an affidavit to establish that it was a business trip. Mundargi was given time till Oct 14 to file the affidavit. However, when he reiterated that the travel was indeed for business purposes, the CJ

smiled and quipped that the couple could first deposit Rs 60 crore if they wished to travel abroad. Mundargi sought that the LOC be placed on hold to enable travel. HC passed no immediate orders and will hear the matter next on Oct 14.

The case was filed by the EOW based on a complaint by an owner of a Capital Financial Services company who alleged that money given to the couple for business purposes from 2015-23 was used for personal expenses.