

accordance with law and in the light of the judgment of this Court in the case of *Sonakshi Rajendra Salunke vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors.* decided on 26.06.2018 in Writ Petition No.6809 of 2018, filed by the real elder sister of the Petitioner.

3 The learned Counsel appearing for the Petitioner states that although the Petitioner had made an application for grant of Caste validity certificate on 12.08.2020, the Respondent No.2-Scrutiny Committee has not decided the application.

4 The learned Counsel for the Petitioner submits that as the Petitioner has filed application for the MHT-CET 2021 examination, the Caste Validity Certificate is required for securing admission in the Pharmacy Degree Course. He has, therefore, submitted that the Respondent-Scrutiny Committee be directed to decide the application for Caste Validity Certificate of the Petitioner as expeditiously as possible.

5 The learned A.G.P. appearing for the Respondents states that Respondent No. 2- Scrutiny Committee requires some time to decide the application for Caste Validity Certificate of the Petitioner.

6 In view of the urgency expressed by the Petitioner who has filed application for MHT-CET 2021 examination and would require Caste Validity Certificate for the purpose of securing admission in the Pharmacy Degree Course, it would be necessary for the Respondent- Scrutiny Committee to decide the application for Caste Validity Certificate of the Petitioner expeditiously. Hence, we pass the following order :

- i) The Respondent- Scrutiny Committee is directed to decide the application for Caste Validity Certificate of the Petitioner within a period of three weeks from today.
- ii) The decision taken by the Respondent- Scrutiny Committee shall be communicated to the Petitioner within a period of one week thereafter.
- iii) Rule is made absolute in above terms.
- iv) Writ Petition is disposed of accordingly.
- v) There shall be no order as to costs.

(R.I. CHAGLA, J.)

(R.D. DHANUKA, J.)