

5. We have considered the submissions.
6. It appears that the petitioner remained absent. The fact that the petitioner remained absent is also accepted by the petitioner in the pleadings.
7. However, considering that the matter involves social status of the petitioner, we are inclined to grant one more opportunity to the petitioner.
8. In light of that, we pass the following order :

ORDER

- i) The impugned order is quashed and set aside and the parties are relegated before the Scrutiny Committee on the condition that the petitioner shall deposit costs of Rs.15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand) with the Committee on or before 6th January 2023.
- ii) The petitioner shall appear before the Committee on 16th January 2023.
- iii) In case, the petitioner deposit the cost as directed, the Committee shall decide the matter afresh on its own merits and in accordance with law.
- iv) In case, the petitioner fails to deposit the cost as directed, the proceedings before the Committee shall stand dismissed.
- v) Rule made absolute in the above terms.
- vi) The writ petition is disposed of. No costs.

(S.G. CHAPALGAONKAR, J.)

(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE)