

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
NAGPUR BENCH : NAGPUR

WRIT PETITION NO. 6391 OF 2022

M/s Manoj Medical & General Stores -- Petitioner

Vs.

The State of Maharashtra and another -- Respondents

Office Notes, Office Memoranda of Coram,
appearances, Court's orders of directions
and Registrar's orders

Court's or Judge's orders

Mr. A.G. Mate & Mr. A.A. Pannase, Advocate for Petitioner
Mr. N.R. Patil, AGP for Respondent Nos.1 and 2

CORAM : AVINASH G. GHAROTE, J.

DATE : 18th OCTOBER, 2022

Heard Mr. Mate, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr. Patil, learned Assistant Government Pleader for respondent - State.

2. The only ground urged is that the punishment imposed by the impugned order dt. 27/4/2022 by the respondent No.1 of suspending the license for 45 days, is too harsh and would cause inconvenience to the patients. The petitioner, was initially found to have been not present at the shop when the inspection was conducted and a violation of the provisions of Rule 65(2) & (3) Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, was found to exist. So also, the signature on bill was different and an offence under Sections 65(2) & (3) of

the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 was also found to have existed, as a result of which the license of the petitioner was terminated wef 21/2/2014, against which the petitioner preferred an appeal before respondent No.1, who set aside the cancellation and reduced the penalty to closure of the shop for 45 days by suspension of the license under Rule 67-H of the Rules, 1945. The impugned order indicates that the violation of Rules 65(2) and 65(3) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 are admitted by the petitioner. However, it is only the quantum of punishment which is being questioned.

3. The contention by Mr. Mate, learned counsel for the petitioner is that the action of the petitioner, falls within the clauses A to D of the proviso to Rule 67-H of the D & C of the said Act, as the allegation that the signature on the bill supplied to the customer was different than the signature on certificate was on account of the reason that the name of the customer was changed after her marriage and she had given affidavit to that effect. These reasons were given by the petitioner in his explanation page 35, which do not appear to have been considered by respondent No.1 in the impugned order. However, since the violation stood admitted as is indicated in the arguments recorded in the impugned order, the conversion of the penalty from cancellation to suspension cannot be faulted with, but, considering the

reasons given and non-consideration of the same in the impugned order, the period of suspension is hereby reduced to 15 days. The petition is hereby partly allowed in above terms. No costs.

4. It is made clear that any further violation by the petitioner shall be strictly dealt with.

(AVINASH G. GHAROTE, J.)

MP Deshpande