

High Court to decide on petition against Ketan Desai, MCI

Rema Nagarajan | Oct 9, 2015, 08:47 PM IST

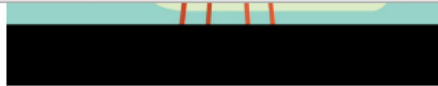
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NEW DELHI: Delhi High Court has fixed November 2 for deciding on the maintainability of a public interest petition seeking the court's intervention on the issue of alleged collusion of senior members of the Medical Council of India (MCI) and the Indian Medical Association in the reinstatement of Dr Ketan Desai, former MCI president as the president of the World Medical Association (WMA).



The others respondents in the petition filed by the president of the organisation People for Better Treatment, Dr Kunal Saha, included the union health ministry, the WMA, Dr Desai and Dr Ajay Kumar, member and grievance committee chair of the MCI.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain who appeared for the health ministry, senior advocate Vikas Singh who appeared for the MCI and the advocate for the IMA opposed the admission of the petition saying it was not maintainable.

After listening to them and to the counsel for the petitioner, senior advocate M N Krishnamani the court fixed a date for announcing its decision on the maintainability of the petition.

The petition has sought direction to the MCI to take action against Dr Ajay Kumar for allegedly misleading the WMA into believing that all charges of corruption against Dr Desai had been dropped even when there were cases pending against him. It also alleged that the MCI president shielded MCI members and refused to take any disciplinary action against them even after they were found guilty by the chief vigilance officer for "unethical conduct" in helping Dr. Desai regain the post of WMA president. It also sought direction for investigation into the allegations of corruption in the MCI made by a joint secretary of the health ministry.

The petition stated that the health ministry was wilfully turning a blind eye to the irregularities inside the MCI despite several complaints to the ministry and specific allegations of wrongdoings by top members of the MCI.

"It is ironical that the health ministry and the medical council is taking the side of Dr Desai who has been removed twice from the post of president of the MCI and asking for the petition to be dismissed,' Dr Saha told TOI.

In 2001, the Delhi High Court had removed Dr Desai from the post of president of MCI on charges of corruption. Again in 2010, the union government had removed him from the post of MCI president on allegations of corruption and had disbanded the MCI.

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