

Maharashtra Plastic and Thermocol Products (Manufacture, Usage, Sale, Transport, Handling and Storage) Notification, 2018

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

15th Floor, New Administrative Building

Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya,

Mumbai 400 032, dated 23rd March, 2018

NOTIFICATION

No. Plastic-2018/C.R. No. 24/TC-4.

WHEREAS, concerns about usage and disposal of plastic are diverse and include accumulation of waste in landfills, water bodies and in natural habitats, physical problems for wild animals resulting from ingestion or entanglement in plastic, the leaching of chemicals from plastic products and the potential for plastics to transfer chemicals to wildlife and humans are increasing.

AND WHEREAS, because of non-biodegradable plastic waste handling of municipal solid waste becomes difficult and incurs more financial burden and also due to burning such waste in open environment causes various diseases in humans and animals. AND WHEREAS, it is observed that non-biodegradable garbage is responsible for clogging drains and nallas causing flood in urban settlement leading to loss of lives and damage to properties and infrastructure.

AND WHEREAS, plastic waste and microplastic cause danger to marine and freshwater bio-diversity and also hamper ecosystem services due to spreading of such waste in and around ecosystems, on tourists places, beaches and on agriculture and forest areas.

AND WHEREAS, non-biodegradable plastic waste and microplastic are having negative impacts on fish diversity and fisheries activity. AND WHEREAS, non-biodegradable waste is posing problems in effective implementation of Clean India Mission.

AND WHEREAS, detailed stake-holders consultations and deliberations with the field level officials were undertaken, and public notices were also published in leading newspapers.

AND WHEREAS, despite the ban on plastic bags of less than 50 micron through Maharashtra Plastic Carry Bags (Manufacture and Usage) Rules, 2006, there is increase in the non-biodegradable plastic garbage waste causing damage to environment and health.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (1) & (2) of Section 4 of the Maharashtra

Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 2006, the Government of Maharashtra hereby authorises regulations for manufacture, usage, sale, storage, transport of the products made from plastic and thermocol, etc. which generates non-biodegradable waste.

1. Short Title and Commencement:

- 1) This may be called the Maharashtra Plastic and Thermocol Products (Manufacture, Usage, Sale, Transport, Handling and Storage) Notification, 2018.
- 2) This Notification shall come into force with effect from the date of their publication in the Maharashtra Government Gazette.

2. Definitions:

- 1) "Act" means the Maharashtra Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 2006.
- 2) "Plastic" means material; which contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer such as polyethylene terephthalate, high-density polyethylene, vinyl, low-density polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene resins, polystyrene (thermacol), non-oven polypropylene, multi-layered co-extruder, polypropylene, poly-terephthalate, polyamides, polymethyl methacrylate, plastic micro beads, etc.
- 3) "Compostable Plastic" means plastic that undergoes degradation by biological processes during composting to yield CO₂, water, inorganic compounds and biomass at a rate consistent with other known compostable materials, excluding environmental petro-based plastic, and does not leave visible, distinguishable or toxic residue, and which shall conform to the Indian Standard: IS 17088:2008 titled as Specifications for Compostable Plastics, as amended from time to time.
- 4) "Plastic sheets" means sheet made of plastic.

- 5) "Plastic waste" means any plastic discarded after use or after their intended use is over.
 - 6) "Recycling" means the process of transforming segregated plastic waste into a new product or raw material for producing a new products.
 - 7) "Producer/Manufacturer" means person engaged in manufacture or import of plastic bags or multilayered packaging or containers or plastic sheets or like, and includes industries or individuals using plastic sheets or like or covers made up of plastic sheets or sheets or also manufacture products made from plastic or used plastic for packaging or wrapping the commodity.
 - 8) "Commodity" means tangible items that may be brought or sold and includes all marketable goods or wares.
 - 9) "Plastic bags" means bags made from plastic material, used for the purpose of carrying or dispensing commodities which have handle or without handle and also includes bags made from non-woven polypropylene and constitute or form an integral part of the packaging at manufacturing stage or is an integral part of manufacturing.
 - 10) "PET and PETE bottles" means bottles made up of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polyethylene terephthalate esters (PETE) used for packaging or storing liquid or semi-liquid food, including water.
 - 11) "Commodities made from thermocol" means any commodity or product made from thermocol.
 - 12) "Form" means form attached with these regulations.
 - 13) "Product" means anything or object or item made from plastic or thermocol.
3. Following activities will be regulated in the whole State of Maharashtra in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2(h), Sub-section 1 and 2 of Section 4 of the Maharashtra Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 2006.
 - 1) The ban in the whole State of Maharashtra for manufacture, usage, transport, distribution, wholesale and retail sale and storage, import of the plastic bags with handle and without handle, and the disposable products manufactured from plastic and thermocol (polystyrene) such as single use disposable dish, cups, plates, glasses, fork, bowl, container, disposable dish/bowl used for packaging food in hotels, spoon, straw, non-woven polypropylene bags, cups/pouches to store liquid, packaging with plastic to wrap or store the products, packaging of food items and food grain material, etc.
 - 2) These regulations are applicable to every person, body of person, government and non-government organization, educational institution, sport complex, clubs, cinema halls and theaters, marriage/celebration halls, industrial units, commercial institutions, offices, pilgrimage organizers, pilgrimages and religious places, hotels, dhabas, shopkeepers, malls, vendors or sellers, traders, manufacturers, caterer, wholesalers,retailers,stockiest,businessmen, hawkers, salesmen, transporters, market, producers, stalls, tourist places, forest and reserved forest, eco-sensitive areas, all sea beaches, all public places, bus stands, railway stations in the State of Maharashtra.
 - 3) There will be ban in whole state for use of plastic and thermocol for decoration purpose.
2. Use, sale, storage and manufacture of PET or PETE bottles made up of high quality food grade virgin Bisphenol-A free material having liquid holding capacity not less than 0.5 liters and printed on it with predefined buy back price shall be allowed subject to compliance of the following.

PET or PETE bottle manufacturers, producers, sellers and traders under "Extended Producers and Sellers/Traders Responsibility" will develop "Buy Back Depository Mechanism" with a predefined buy back price printed specifically on such PET or PETE bottles and also set up Collection and Recycling units of adequate capacity and number to collect and recycle such PET or PETE bottles within 3 months from the date of publication of this notification. Traders/sellers will buy back such used PET/PETE bottles with predefined buy back price printed on such bottles.

PET/PETE bottles having liquid holding capacity 1 liter or more and of 0.5 liter will

be printed on the body of the bottle with predefined buy back price of Rs. 1/- and Rs. 2/, respectively. However, there will be ban on usage, purchase, sale, distribution and storage of PET/PETE bottles having liquid holding capacity less than 0.5 liters in the State.

3. These regulations shall not be applicable to the following items:
 - i. Plastic bags or plastic used for packaging of medicines;
 - ii. Only compostable plastic bags or material used for plant nurseries, horticulture, agriculture, handling of solid waste. However, bags/sheets utilized for this purpose shall be prominently printed on it with "Use exclusively for this specific purpose only". The manufacturers or seller of compostable plastic carry bags shall obtain a certificate from the Central Pollution Control Board before marketing or selling for this purpose.
 - iii. To manufacture plastic and plastic bags for export purpose only, in the Special Economic Zone and export oriented units, etc.
 - iv. The plastic cover/plastic to wrap the material at the manufacturing stage or is an integral part of manufacturing. Guidelines to recycle or reuse such plastic should be printed prominently on the cover and material.
 - v. Food grade virgin plastic bags not less than 50 micron thickness used for packaging of milk. However, on such plastic bags used for this purpose, should be clearly printed with the price for buy back which should not be less than Rs. 0.50 to develop buy back system for recycling. To develop collection mechanism and ensure proper recycling of such used bags, milk dairies, retail sellers and traders will buy back such used milk bags with predefined buy back price printed on it. Milk dairies, retail sellers and traders will ensure that such buy back mechanism and collection and recycling system shall establish within 3 months from the date of publication of this regulation. However, Milk Dairy and distributors shall make efforts to develop alternative system with glass bottles or

any other environmental friendly material for distribution of milk.

4. The following officers are authorized and empowered for the implementation and to take necessary legal action under powers conferred u/s 12 of the provisions of the Maharashtra Non-biodegradable (Control) Act, 2006, as per their jurisdiction:
 - 1) Municipal Commissioners, Deputy Municipal Commissioners, Shops & Establishment Officers and Inspectors, Sanitary Inspector, Health Inspector, Health Officer, Ward Officers or any other Officer nominated by the Municipal Commissioner as well as Chief Officers of all Municipal Councils and any other Officer nominated by the Chief Officer are authorized to implement the provisions of the said Regulations in their respective jurisdiction.
 - 2) District Collector, Deputy Collector, Sub-Divisional Officer, Tahasildar, Talathi and any other officer nominated by Collector, are authorized to implement the provisions of the said Regulations in their respective jurisdiction.
 - 3) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad; Block Development Officer, Health Officer, Development Officer, District Education Officer, Block Education Officer and Gram Sevak are authorized to implement the provisions of the said Regulations in their respective jurisdiction.
 - 4) Member Secretary, Regional Officer, Sub-Regional Officer and Field Officer of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Scientist-I & II and Director, Environment Department, Government of Maharashtra.
 - 5) Director, Health Services; Deputy Director, Health Services; Health Officers.
 - 6) Director, Primary and Secondary Education Board.
 - 7) All Tourism Police, Police Inspector, Police Sub-Inspector, Motor Vehicle Inspector, Traffic Police, Joint Managing Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation or any other officer authorized by Managing Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation.

- 8) Deputy Commissioner (Supply), District Supply Officer
 - 9) Commissioner State Tax and all State Tax Officers.
 - 10) Range Forest Officer or any other officer authorized by Deputy Conservator of Forest.
2. 1) For implementation of these regulations, the person at village or city level, interested persons, group of people, welfare organizations, industrial association and members of all local bodies, etc. shall register any offence with the concerned authorized officer, notified in these regulations for this purpose.
- 2) The said registered person, group of people, welfare organizations, industrial association shall help the officers authorized under the said regulations, for providing information of violation of
- these regulations and assist such officers to impose fine, to confiscate the material made from plastic and thermocol and assist in registering the offence.
- 5. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board shall impose the condition on manufacturers indicating that recycling price and buy back price should be prominently printed on PET/PETE bottles and plastic bags permissible under these regulations while issuing consent to establish, consent to operate/renewal and also to initiate actions on non-complying units or industries under appropriate act.
 - 6. Separate order for levying recycling fees from manufacturers at manufacturing stage and recycling fees at selling point at local body level will be issued in consultation with Directorate of Goods and Services Taxes and with approval of the Empowered committee.
 - 7. Time frame for implementation of these regulation:

Sr. No.	Stake Holder	Activity	Implementation period
1.	Manufacturer/Producer	Manufacturing and sale of banned items. Disposal of existing stock of banned items by: 1) Sale outside the state 2) Sale to authorized recycler or industry.	From date of notification. One month from the date of notification.
2.	Sellers, Retailers, Traders	Ban on sale Disposal of existing stock by: 1) Sale outside the state 2) Sale to authorized recycler or industry 3) Handed over to Local Body for Scientific disposal or recycling; and plastic waste generated under buy back scheme to be handed over to authorized recyclers or to the such mechanism developed for the same.	From the date of notification One month from the date of notification.
3.	Users	Use of banned items. Disposal of existing plastic banned items with the individual users by 1) Handed over to Local Body for Scientific disposal or recycling 2) Sale to authorized recycler or industry.	From the date of notification. One month from the date of notification.
4.	Local Body	To arrange the collection, transportation of banned plastic items or plastic waste of existing stock for recycling to authorized recyclers or industries or scientific disposal.	One month from the date of notification.

8. Empowered Committee, constituted under the chairmanship of Minister (Environment) shall monitor the implementation of these regulations and will regularly review the incorporation of additional items which generate non-biodegradable garbage including use of PET or PETE bottles to be banned in the state. This committee will also help in resolving any difficulty faced by implementing authorities during implementation and if required also carry out any amendment in these regulations with an aim to reduce the volume of non-biodegradable garbage generation in the State.
9. Expert Committee shall be constituted under these regulations which will suggest the recommendations including amendment required, if any in the regulations to the Empowered Committee for effective implementation of the regulations and solutions to reduce the non-biodegradable garbage.
10. Implementing Authorities, shall submit quarterly report in the Form-A to the State Government.
- By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,
- SATISH GAVAI**
Additional Chief Secretary (Environment)

FORM-A

- (1) Period of Report: From _____ to _____
- (2) Name and Address of Enforcing Agency:
- (3) Name of the Officers Incharge of enforcement of the aforesaid Rules:
- (4) Telephone/Cell No. (Office):
- (5) E-mail ID:
- (6) No. of cases registered in the jurisdiction for violation:

Jurisdiction	Compounding		3rd Offence	No. of cases filed in the Court	No. of cases sub-judiced	Amount of fine collected	Remarks
	1st Offence	2nd Offence					
							0

1. _____

Sub-Total

2. _____

Sub-Total

Grand Total -----

- (7) Details of special drives undertaken for effective implementation of the Rules:
- (8) List of first time offenders and second time offenders.
- (9) Details of public awareness programs conducted by Enforcing Agency in their jurisdiction.
- (10) Any other relevant information.

(Signature of the Reporting Authority)

MEDICOLEGAL

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION CRIMINAL ANTICIPATORY BAIL APPLICATION NO. 513 OF 2018

1 Deepa Sanjeev Pawaskar.

2 Sanjeev Anant Pawaskar.

.. Applicants.

V/s.

The State of Maharashtra.

.. Respondent.

Mr. Shirish Gupte, Sr. Counsel a/w. Mr. A.P. Mundargi, Senior Counsel I/b. Mr. Jayant J. Bardeskar, advocate for applicants.

Mr. Deepak Thakare a/w. Ms. Veera Shinde, APP for State.

Mr. Prashant Thombare a/w. Mr. Sandeep Agne, advocate for intervenor.

Mr. S.M. Varale, API, Ratnagiri City Police Station.

CORAM : **SMT. SADHANA S. JADHAV, J.**

RESERVED ON : **JUNE 13, 2018.**

PRONOUNCED ON : **JULY 25, 2018.**

P. C.:

1. Heard the learned Counsel for the applicants and the learned APP for State.
2. This is an application under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1908. The applicants herein are apprehending their arrest in Crime No. 71 of 2018 registered with Ratnagiri City Police Station for offence punishable under Section 304 read with Section 34 of Indian Penal Code.
3. The applicant No. 1 happens to be the wife of applicant No. 2. The applicants are medical practitioners. The qualification of the applicants is M.D. (Gynecology).
4. **Issue for consideration: Prescription without diagnosis and hence resulting into death of the patient amounts to criminal negligence on the part of the doctors.**
5. The whole thrust of the applicants in the present case is that the act of the applicants would fall under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code or under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code and therefore, this Court is considering the issue.
6. It is the case of the prosecution that on 7th March, 2018 Pranav Pramod Polekar was constrained to lodge a report at the police station. The first informant informed the police that Dnyanada

was his wife. Dnyanada was hail and hearty. That in the month of June, 2017 preliminary diagnosis indicated symptoms of having conceived and therefore, they had visited the hospital of Dr. Pawaskar. Dr. Sanjiv Pawaskar (applicant No. 2) had examined Dnyanada and had confirmed that she was pregnant. Dnyanada was registered with Dr. Pawaskar. Dnyanada used to visit the hospital regularly for routine check-up. She had taken the medicine prescribed by Dr. Pawaskar. He was informed that due date is approximately 18/2/2018.

7. On 5/2/2018, she had started having labor pains and therefore, they had rushed to Dr. Pawaskar Hospital. The doctor and his wife were present. She was admitted in the hospital. Initially, the family members were informed that she would have normal delivery. On 6/2/2018, she was advised to undergo sonography test at Gurukrupa Sonography Center. Upon seeing the sonography report, the doctors were of the opinion that she should undergo cesarean operation. On 6/2/2018, she had undergone **cesarean** operation. Dr. Ketkar was the anesthetist. Dnyanada had given birth to a female child. The baby was admitted in Gajanan Bal Rugnalay of Dr. Vijay Suryagandh. On 6/2/2018, Dnyanada appeared to be normal. The first informant had deposited Rs. 25,000/- towards medical fees. On 8/2/2018, baby was also

discharged and on 9/2/2018 at 5 p.m. Dnyanada was discharged from Dr. Pawaskar Hospital. At the time of discharge, doctors were not available. The staff had also not informed the family members or the patient about the postoperative care.

8. On 10/2/2018, Dnyanada was vomiting throughout the day. Her relatives had called upon Dr. Deepa Pawaskar. She had asked them to call her from medical shop. The doctor had given instructions to the medical shop owner and accordingly, he had given them tablets which she had taken. On the same day, in the evening Dnyanada had fever and she continued vomiting and therefore, she was taken to the hospital of Dr. Deepa Pawaskar at 8.30 p.m. In their presence, the staff nurse had called upon Dr. Deepa Pawaskar. She was advised to admit the patient. The staff had informed that the doctors are not available in the hospital. **The first informant had asked as to whether she should be taken to another hospital.** However, he was informed that it was not necessary and that the patient would be admitted for 1 day and on the next day, she would be discharged.
9. Dnyanada was being treated by two nurses, who were administering medicines on the telephonic instructions of Dr. Deepa Pawaskar. The condition of the patient was deteriorating and the relatives, out of anxiety were accordingly informing the staff nurse. The relatives were insisting upon shifting the patient to another hospital. However, the staff nurse upon instructions of the applicant No. 1 had informed the relatives that they need not panic and that they are in touch with Dr. Deepa Pawaskar and she has guided them telephonically. At about 10.15 p.m. Dr. Girish Karmarkar had been to the hospital. He had patiently heard about the complaints of the patient. Dr. Karmarkar had prescribed the tablet-Trazine H, which the first informant got from National Medical Shop as advised by Dr. Karmarkar.
10. On 11/2/2018 at about 3.45 a.m. his sister Mrunali, who was with the patient, had asked the first informant to rush to the hospital. They realized that tip of nose and lips of Dnyanada had turned black. Dr. Girish Karmarkar did not visit again nor enquired about the patient. The first informant had realized that the health of the patient had deteriorated to a large extent. He had to quarrel with the staff and thereafter, at 4 a.m. the staff had called upon Dr. Pawaskar. Upon his instructions, Dr. Ketkar had visited hospital at 4.30 a.m. Dr. Ketkar had enquired

as to why the head of the patient was lowered. Upon objectionable query made by Dr. Ketkar, the staff had informed that the head was lowered at the instructions of Dr. Karmarkar. By then Dnyanada was getting fits. Dr. Ketkar felt need of putting her on oxygen. Dr. Ketkar had diagnosed poor prognosis and therefore, needed to be shifted to Parkar Hospital. Dr. Ketkar was not able to tell the relatives of as to what had happened to her. He informed Dr. Pawaskar that he is shifting the patient to Parkar Hospital. There was no ambulance with Dr. Pawaskar. To save time, Dr. Ketkar had to take the patient in his own car. She was admitted in the ICU of Parkar Hospital. She was kept on ventilator and at 7 a.m. the doctor had informed that Dnyanada had expired. The first informant had specifically stated that it was due to negligence by the present applicants that he had lost his wife. On the basis of the said report, an offence was registered. Investigation was set in motion.

11. The dead body of Dnyanada was sent for autopsy. The post-mortem notes indicated that the cause of death was due to pulmonary embolism. Thereafter, it was sent for histopathological test. The findings recorded in the histopathological test are as follows:
 - Brain: Congestion.
 - Heart: No specific lesion.
 - Lungs: Pulmonary thromboembolism and bone marrow embolism in medium-sized blood vessels.
 - Intra-alveolar hemorrhages and focal pulmonary edema.
 - Liver: Focal fatty change, portal triaditis.
 - Spleen, kidney: Congestion.
 - Uterus with bilateral adnexae: Postpartum changes.
 - LSCS suture site: Acute nonspecific inflammation.
12. The case papers of Dr. Pawaskar Hospital, Dr. Parkar's Hospital along with medical reports were referred to the District Civil Surgeon and his opinion was sought vide report dated 3/3/2018. His opinion was as follows:
 - (i) Since Dnyanada Polekar had undergone cesarean operation and was readmitted on the very next day, it was incumbent upon the hospital to have examined the patient by the gynecologist before admission.

- (ii) The patient was admitted on the telephonic instructions of Dr. Deepa Pawaskar.
 - (iii) Dr. Deepa Pawaskar is responsible for the health condition of the patient.
 - (iv) Dr Deepa Pawaskar should have referred the patient to a specialist immediately. Her negligence is apparent on the face of the record.
 - (v) The health condition was not monitored properly from 10/2/2018 8.30 p.m. to 11/2/2018 5.40 a.m. and therefore, negligence is apparent.
13. The second report given by the District Civil Surgeon to the Investigating Officer dated 13th March, 2018 reads as follows:
- The statement of the staff nurses was recorded by the Investigating Officer and was placed before the District Civil Surgeon along with medical reports, upon which, medical analysis was as follows:
- (i) Smt. Shital Thick had examined the patient at the time of readmission. Her educational qualification is 12th standard and passed A.N.M. Another staff nurse was Smt. Anuradha Sharad Rasal whose educational qualification is S.S.C. After the patient was admitted at 8.30 p.m., she was not examined by any medical officer. Dr. Girish Karmarkar had prescribed Trazin H. There was no preliminary assessment of the ailment and therefore, the treatment was not proper. The patient ought to have undergone pathological test such as X-ray and sonographic test. The condition of the patient ought to have been monitored every half an hour. The relatives of the patient were not informed immediately about the poor prognosis.
 - (ii) **The absence of Dr. Deepa Pawaskar was pre-planned and therefore, the patient ought not to have been admitted in her absence. Except checking pulse and blood pressure, no other tests were performed on the patient.**
 - (iii) The complications were not noticed immediately for want of proper medical officer.
 - (iv) Civil Surgeon has assigned reasons for pulmonary embolism and the symptoms which were found in patient Dnyanada, which are as follows:
 - (1) Restlessness
 - (2) Leg pain
 - (3) Breathlessness
 - (4) Pedal edema
 - (5) Cold extremities
 - (6) Pulse 132/min (on monitor)
 - (7) RR 32/min (on monitor).
- (v) There is no record to show that there was any effort to refer the re-admitted patient to another doctor in the absence of Deepa Pawaskar and she continued to prescribe medicine telephonically. There was no resident medical officer or any other doctor to look after the patient in the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Pawaskar. In fact, the said trip was prescheduled.
14. In the course of investigation, the Investigating Officer had recorded the statements of staff of Dr. Pawaskar Hospital. Sarika Dakare has stated that she has passed her 12th standard. That the doctors had prepared the discharge card of the patient 1 day before, as they were to go out of station. Co-nurse Harshada Kanade had handed over the discharge papers, birth certificate to the patient at the time of discharge. On 9/2/2018 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., no doctor was available in the hospital. They had been asked by the doctors to discharge the patient on 9/2/2018 at 5 p.m. At that time, doctors were not available in the hospital. She has further stated that as per the telephonic instructions of Dr. Deepa Pawaskar, the patient was re-admitted. Saline was given. Saline could not be given on left hand as it was swollen.
15. The statement of one Anuradha Rasal was recorded. She is also studied up to 10th standard. She was an untrained nurse. On 7/2/2018, when she attended her duty at 8 p.m., she was informed by the co-nurse Manali Vasave that the applicants are leaving for Pune for conference on 8/2/2018 and that they have kept discharge papers of Dynanada Polekar ready and in case there is new patient, they should call upon Dr. Girish Karmarkar. On 10/2/2018, Dynanada was readmitted. On telephonic instructions of Dr. Deepa Pawaskar, case papers were prepared as per her instructions. The newborn baby was not with the mother when she was re-admitted. She was admitted in room No. 3. She was given dextrose injection through saline. Another injection was R-din. Dompan tablet and Aciloc was given and as per the instructions of Dr. Karmarkar, Trazine H was given. The patient had complaint of nausea, headache, giddiness,

tremendous, unbearable pain in her legs, loose motions. However, the said symptoms were not mentioned in the case papers. There was abdominal inflammation, swelling on her legs and lips had turned black. Her condition deteriorated between 4 and 4.30 a.m. The patient was panting for breath and complained of severe pain in her legs. At 4.30 a.m. Dr. Ketkar arrived and had shifted her at Parkar Hospital. She has specifically stated that there was no stretcher and therefore, she had to be taken up to the car in a plastic sheet. The relatives were made to hold plastic sheet. Similar are the statements of the other staff nurses.

16. Learned Senior Counsel for the applicants in the course of argument has submitted that the applicants at the most be prosecuted under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code and not under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code. What is placed on record to substantiate his argument is the Literature in respect of Pulmonary Embolism. Introduction itself reads as follows:

"The pathophysiology of pulmonary embolism. Although pulmonary embolism can arise from anywhere in the body, most commonly it arises from the calf veins."

The literature further shows:

"In patients who survive a pulmonary embolism, recurrent embolism and death can be prevented with prompt diagnosis and therapy. Unfortunately, the diagnosis is often missed because patients with pulmonary embolism present with nonspecific signs and symptoms."

17. In the present case, it is more than clear that the patient had shown specific signs of embolism as she had fever, her calf was aching terribly. There was swelling on the abdominal, which was apparent. She had severe headache and fever. All these symptoms are noted by the District Civil Surgeon.
18. The learned APP has submitted that the sonographic report of the patient dated 6/2/2018 itself showed that "Umbilical artery show reduced diastolic flow with increased S/D ratio s/o fetoplacental insufficiency." In these circumstances, the patient had undergone cesarean. All the medical case papers of 10th and 11th show that the medicines were administered on the oral instructions of Dr. Mrs. Pawaskar.
19. Learned APP has further submitted that in the course of investigation, the applicants had tried to tamper with the evidence and the same cannot be disclosed till filing of the charge-sheet. The medical

Board has also opined that it is a case of negligence, more particularly, because the visit to Pune on 9/2/2018 was pre-scheduled. The discharge card was prepared by the Doctors without examining the patient at the time of discharge. The statement of Dr. Karmarkar shows that 1 day Dr. Mr. and Mrs. Pawaskar had casually met him on road and requested him to attend patient, if necessary in their absence. That he was never requested by Dr. Pawaskar telephonically to examine the patient Dynanada. It was at the request of nurse that he had been to examine Dynanada on humanitarian ground and by virtue of professional courtesy. In his statement, he has given symptoms of pulmonary embolism, which can be diagnosed immediately and could have been treated.

20. It is pertinent to note that on 9/3/2018 when the investigation was in progress, the Indian Medical Association, Ratnagiri Branch wrote a letter of protest to the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police, threatening to go on strike for prosecuting Dr. Pawaskar couple for offence punishable under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code. They have also warned that they would not hesitate to go on strike in all cities and at the State level or even at the National level. They had threatened of keeping the hospital closed in Ratnagiri. The letters were sent to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, District Civil Surgeon, District Information Officer and the Superintendent of Police. **It is unfortunate that all private hospitals in Ratnagiri actually remained closed for 2 days and the patients were forced to rush to Civil Hospital.**
21. The medical board has observed that there were clots in inferior vena cava. Inferior vein returns blood to the heart from the lower part of the body. It is a vein which carries de-oxygenated blood from lower half of the body to the artium of the heart. The said vein runs beyond abdominal cavity.
22. The learned APP submits that in the eventuality, there was proper diagnosis at the time of readmission, Dynanada would have been saved. According to the learned APP, it is criminal negligence, more particularly, because the first informant had specifically asked as to whether he should admit his wife in some other hospital and as per the instructions of Dr. Deepa Pawaskar, the patient was readmitted being oblivious of the fact that the patient needed readmission within 24 hours of discharge. It is clear that the patient was not examined by the doctor at the time of

discharge. This Court had perused the discharge certificate which is signed by the applicants. It was post dated discharge certificate as it was prepared on 7/2/2018, since the doctors had left for Pune on 8th in the morning, the date on the discharge card is 9/2/2018.

23. The learned Senior Counsel vehemently submits that this would be a case of 304(A) and not 304 of the Indian Penal Code. Section 304A reads thus:

304A. Causing death by negligence—Whoever causes the death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 2 years, or with fine, or with both.

It is submitted that in no way, it can be said that this was a criminal negligence.

24. To appreciate the submissions of the learned Senior Counsel one has to see the definition of “negligence” as per Black’s Law Dictionary. The word “negligence” is defined in Black’s Law Dictionary as follows:

“Failure to exercise the standard of care that a reasonably prudent person would have exercised in similar situation; any conduct that falls below the legal standard established to protect others against unreasonable risk of harm, except for conduct that is intentionally, want only, or willfully disregarding of others’ rights. The term denotes culpable carelessness.”

The Criminal Negligence is defined as “Gross negligence so extreme that it is punishable as a crime.” Whereas Culpable Negligence is *an intentional conduct which the actor may not intend to be harmful but which ordinary and reasonably prudent man would recognize as involving a strong probability of injury to others.* This would be a case of culpable neglect which is defined as censurable or blameworthy neglect: neglect i.e., less than gross carelessness, but more than failure to use ordinary care.

25. Doctors failure to exercise the degree of care and skill that a physician or surgeon of the medical specialty would use under similar circumstances would amount to malpractice. An error in diagnosis could be negligence and covered under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code. **But this is a case of prescription without diagnosis and therefore, culpable negligence.** The element of criminality is introduced not only by a guilty mind but by the practitioner having run a risk of doing

something with recklessness and indifference to the consequences. It should be added that this negligence or rashness is gross in nature.

26. When a doctor fails in his duty, does it not tantamount to criminal negligence? The Courts cannot ignore the ethical nature of the medical law by liberally extending legal protection to the medical professionals. The ethical issues raised by failure to assist a person in need arises from positive duties. According to this Court, the breach of these duties could fall within the realm of a criminal law of negligence.
27. The learned Senior Counsel submits that it is a case of civil law and the doctors could be made to pay compensation. It is submitted that at the most it is a negligence under Section 304A and not criminal negligence. Therefore, according to the learned Senior Counsel, the scope of the present case cannot be enhanced to make out a case of criminal negligence.
28. At this stage, a line of distinction needs to be withdrawn. As is held above, in case there was an error in diagnosis, it would be a civil liability. But in the present case:
- (i) the patient was directed to be admitted in the absence of the doctors;
 - (ii) the medicines were administered on telephonic instructions without even enquiring about the symptoms or nature of the pain suffered by the patient;
 - (iii) there was no resident medical officer;
 - (iv) no alternative arrangement was made;
 - (v) In fact, Dr. Karmarkar was also called by the staff when the health of the patient started deteriorating. The applicants had not even bothered to ask Dr. Karmarkar about the treatment given by him or the condition of the patient.
 - (vi) All these when the complainant wanted to admit his wife in another hospital.
29. The question is whether all this is a civil liability? Whether the compensation can buy a child her mother and beloved wife to a husband.
30. To add to all this, the applicants had indulged into pressure tactics through Indian Medical Association, Ratnagiri Branch by putting other vulnerable patients into peril. Initially, the report of the Civil Surgeon clearly indicated that the

applicants were responsible for the cause of death. However, subsequently, all the doctors had mellowed down in support of the applicants. There is no element of deterrence to medical fraternity. Negligence becomes actionable on account of the injury resulting from the act or omission to commit the act amounting to negligence i.e., criminal negligence. The initially essential components are breached out and the resultant damage.

31. The medical professionals have been put on pedestal near mortals especially destitute patient and their families suffer because of lack of knowledge and over imposition of technologies in law.
32. The time has come for weeding out careless and negligent persons in the medical profession. Segregation of reckless and negligent doctor in the profession will go a great way in restoring the honor and prestige of large number of doctors and hospital who are devoted to the profession and scrupulously follow the ethics and principles of the noble profession. Recklessness and negligence are tricky road to travel. There is gross negligence from the point of standard of care. **Prescription without diagnosis would amount to culpable negligence. This issue is decided in the affirmative.**
33. According to the learned Senior Counsel, the offence would at the most be under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code. The learned Counsel has drawn attention of this Court to the observations of the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of **Jacob Mathew v/s. State of Punjab and anr. reported in (2005) 6 SCC 1**, wherein it is held that:

"Indiscriminate prosecution of medical professionals for criminal negligence is counter-productive and does no service or good to the society."

"A medical practitioner faced with an emergency ordinarily tries his best to redeem the patient out of his suffering. He does not gain anything by acting with negligence or by omitting to do an act. Obviously, therefore, it will be for the complainant to clearly make out a case of negligence before a medical practitioner is charged with or proceeded against criminally."

"A doctor who administers a medicine known to or used in a particular branch of medical profession impliedly declares that he has knowledge of that branch of science and if he does not, in fact, possess that knowledge, he is prima facie acting with rashness or negligence."

In the aforesaid Judgment, the Hon'ble Apex Court has also held as follows:

"To prosecute a medical professional for negligence under criminal law it must be shown that the accused did something or failed to do something which in the given facts and circumstances no medical professional in his ordinary senses and prudence would have done or failed to do. The hazard taken by the accused doctor should be of such a nature that the injury which resulted was most likely imminent."

The Hon'ble Apex Court has discussed the observations of Sir Lawrence Jenkins in **Emperor v. Omkar Rampratap (1902) 4 Bom. LR 679** as follows:

"To impose criminal liability under Section 304-A, Indian Penal Code, it is necessary that the death should have been the direct result of a rash and negligent act of the accused, and that act must be the proximate and efficient cause without the intervention of another's negligence. It must be the causa causans; it is not enough that it may have been the causa sine qua non."

It is also observed by the Hon'ble Apex Court that:

"An error of judgment on the part of a professional is not negligence per se. Higher the acuteness in emergency and higher the complication, more are the chances of error of judgment."

It is pertinent to note that present case is not a case of error of judgment but of pure neglect and taking the patient for granted.

34. The next Judgment relied by the learned Senior Counsel is in the case of **P.B. Desai v/s. State of Maharashtra reported in (2013) 15 SCC 481**, wherein the Hon'ble Apex Court has observed that:

"An omission is sometimes called a negative act, but this seems dangerous practice, for it too easily permits an omission to be substituted for an act without requiring the special requirement for omission liability such as legal duty and the physical capacity to perform the act."

In that case, the Court was considering the purport of section 338 of the Indian Penal Code. The Hon'ble Apex Court had held that:

"The solution to the issue of punishing what is described loosely, and possibly inaccurately, as negligence is to make a clear distinction between negligence and recklessness and to reserve criminal punishment for the latter. If the conduct in question involves elements of recklessness, then it is punishable and should not be described as merely negligent."

35. In the present case, the gynecologist should have been aware that a person who was discharged after cesarean operation had to be admitted within 24 hours. There was no reason for not referring the patient to another doctor. This was the commercial aspect of looking at the profession and retaining the patient in the absence of the doctor and then claiming that it is an error of judgment and that she has died due to pulmonary embolism for which the doctors cannot be held responsible. Firstly, the doctors had not thoroughly examined the patient at the time of discharge or else some diagnosis could have been made at that stage itself.
36. The learned Senior Counsel has also placed reliance on the Judgment of the Apex Court in the case of **Mahadev Prasad Kaushik v/s. State of U.P. reported in (2009) ALL MR (Cri.) 1864 (SC)**. The facts of the case are at variance. In that case, the complainant had alleged that the treatment was given by the appellant who administered three injections to Buddha Ram and within half an hour, Buddha Ram died. That could be a case of an error of judgment. In case of **Mahadev Prasad Kaushik(cited supra)**, it was an appeal filed against the conviction recorded by the High Court. There was material evidence before the Court. In the present case, the material shows that the applicants were influential so much that the doctors had gone on strike and closed the private hospital for a week.
37. The other cases relied upon by the learned Senior Counsel are in respect of the complaints decided by the Consumer Protection Forum.
38. In the case of **A.S.V. Narayanan Rao v/s. Ratnamala and anr. Reported in (2013) 10 SCC 741**, the Hon'ble Apex Court has placed reliance upon the Judgment of the Apex Court in the case of **Jacob Mathew (cited supra)** and has held that for an act to amount to criminal negligence, the degree of negligence should be much higher i.e., gross or of a very high degree. The word "gross" has not been used in Section 304-A of the Indian Penal Code, yet it is settled that in criminal law negligence or recklessness, to be so held, must be of such a high degree as to be "gross".
39. It is in the aforesaid observations that this Court is not inclined to exercise the discretion under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 in favor of the applicants.
40. These observations are restricted to the application under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the same shall not be taken into consideration in any other proceedings.
41. The application being sans merits stands rejected and disposed of accordingly.
42. However, operation of this order is stayed till 2/8/2018.

[SMT. SADHANA S. JADHAV, J]

