

Mr. Zohab Hussain Adv

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

W.P. (CIVIL) NO. 600 / 2015

IN THE MATTER OF:

Shamnad Basheer

..... Petitioner

VERSUS

Union of India & Ors.

..... Respondents

AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY (NTA)

PAPER BOOK

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ADVOCATE FOR NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY:

GAURAV SHARMA

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I, Dr. Vikas Gupta, s/o Sh. I J Gupta, presently working as Director (Admin), National Testing Agency (NTA), do solemnly affirm on oath as under:-

1. That at present, I am working as the Director (Admin), National Testing Agency (NTA) and as such, in my official capacity, I am competent to swear the present Affidavit on behalf of NTA.
2. The Deponent respectfully submits that the National Testing Agency (NTA), a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization set up by the Government of India with the objective of conducting entrance examinations for grant of admission / fellowship in higher educational institutions. NTA is registered as a Society under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.

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3. The NTA has been entrusted with the responsibility to improve equity and quality in education by administering research based valid, reliable, efficient, transparent, fair and international level assessments. Under the aegis of the NTA, the best subject matter experts, psychometricians and IT delivery and security professionals will ensure that the current gaps in existing assessment systems are properly identified and bridged.
4. The stated goals and objectives of the NTA are reproduced as under:-
 - a. To conduct efficient, transparent and international standards tests in order to assess the competency of candidates for admission, and recruitment purposes.
 - b. To undertake research on educational, professional and testing systems to identify gaps in the knowledge systems and take steps for bridging them.
 - c. To identify experts and institutions in setting examination questions.
 - d. To produce and disseminate information and research on education and professional development standards.
5. For the Academic session 2019-20 onwards, NTA has been entrusted with the responsibility to conduct the entrance examinations for admission to premier higher educational institutions in India, including the JEE (Main), NEET – UG, CMAT and GPAT, in addition to conducting the assessment for grant of fellowship by UGC-NET.

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6. That the Deponent has stood informed through the office of the Ld. Addl. Solicitor General of India [who had appeared for the Govt. of India in WP(C) No. 551 / 2018 – Disha Panchal Vs. Union of India & Ors. and has also been representing the CBSE in SLP(C) No. 18525 / 2018 – CBSE Vs. T.K. Rangarajan & Ors., where this Hon'ble Court has been hearing the final arguments] that in the present proceedings, this Hon'ble Court is dealing with the issue of conduct of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) for entrance to, inter alia, the National Law Schools in the country. It had been brought to the attention of the NTA that during the arguments in SLP(C) No. 18525 / 2018 - CBSE Vs. T.K. Rangarajan & Ors., when it had stood pointed out on behalf of CBSE that from the Academic Year 2019-20, the NEET entrance examination shall be conducted by the NTA and not by the CBSE, this Hon'ble Court had desired to know whether NTA would be willing to accept the responsibility for conducting the CLAT Examination, as an expert body for conducting entrance examinations to higher educational institutions.
7. It is most respectfully submitted that NTA is willing to take up the responsibility for conducting the CLAT examination from Academic session 2019-2020 onwards, if desired by this Hon'ble Court. This position was brought to the notice of this Hon'ble Court on 03.10.2018, when it was observed that let the NTA incorporate its willingness to conduct CLAT

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examination from Academic session 2019-2020 onwards – in an affidavit.

It was directed that such an affidavit be filed before this Hon'ble Court.

8. Accordingly, in compliance with the observations made by this Hon'ble Court on 03.10.2018, the present Affidavit is being filed to place on record the above-mentioned stand of the NTA.

Alu Gyl
DEPONENT

NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY
Add:- Block C-20/1A/B, Sector-02
IITK Outreach Centre, Gautam
Buddh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201309

VERIFICATION

Verified on this the 22nd day of October 2018 that the contents of the present Affidavit are true to my knowledge and are derived from the official records of the NTA. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Alu Gyl
DEPONENT

NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY
Add:- Block C-20/1A/B, Sector-02
IITK Outreach Centre, Gautam
Buddh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201309