

## 12th September 2023 minutes of meeting

Online meeting of MLSI was organised on Tuesday 12th September 2023 to discuss intervention application in the PIL filed by Adv in the Supreme Court of India. It was attended by

Dr. Mukesh Yadav

Dr. Pratibha Kane

Dr. Shivkumar Kumbhar

Dr. Nitin Dhande

Dr. Ashish Khatod

Dr. Srinivas Madhusudan

Mr. Sumit Chauhan

Dr. Devraj Raichur

Dr. Munish Kapoor

Dr. Hitesh

Dr. Rajeev Joshi

Dr. Sayad Aslam Kazmi

Dr. Rajkumar Bhatia

Mr. Anil Jauhari

Sorry for missing the names of attendees who joined in between, stayed for a while and left the meeting. Following points were discussed:

1. Dr. Joshi requested Dr. Munish Kapoor, Mr Anil Jauhari Dr. Srinivas Madhusudan to introduce themselves. They introduced themselves.
2. Dr. Joshi said that Dr. Munish Kapoor shared substantial documents for the IA in PIL and requested him to describe the content of the document in brief. Dr. Munish Kapoor said that in 2017 there was a death of a girl child due to Dengue in Fortis Hospital and in this case the hospital charged a bill of rupees 17 lakh due to which this issue got lots of publicity. In furtherance of this government ordered NPPA to conduct enquiry and scrutiny of bill in this case. NPPA conducted enquiry and came to conclusions that inflation in the amount of bill is due to expensive consumables and medicine and these are expensive due to high trade margins. NPPA further suggested that rationalisation and capping on this trade margin is necessary. The officer who honestly conducted this enquiry and was working in direction of issuing notification for capping trade margins was transferred by government. Which ipso facto proves that government is not willing to lower the price of medicine if government really want to decrease the cost of medicine, it should control the trade margins.

3. Dr. Kane said that in IA we should press for the quality assurance of medicine and should demand for a grievance redressal mechanism regarding quality of medicine. We should also ask if any drug is not available in generic form then who will be responsible for substitution? Whether doctor or chemist?. She further added that it is important to add earlier discussed disclaimer in prescription. She expressed the necessity to create awareness about the lack of testing facilities of medicine, especially generic medicines. Dr. Joshi replied that such publicity has to be done before filling IA because once IA is filled the matter will become sub judice.
4. Dr. Srinivas suggested using prescription in digital format. Dr. Joshi replied that this issue is out of scope of our IA.
5. Mr. Anil said that the problem is not only spurious medicine but also substandard quality medicine which is the cause of death of children in Gambia and Kazakhstan and suggested that we should pray for quality testing and control mechanisms. To this Dr. Kane and Dr. Joshi replied that such prayer is already there in IA.
6. Dr. Munish Kapoor raised some doubts regarding some prayers in a petition which was cleared by Dr. Joshi.
7. Dr. Raichur raised an issue of difference in bioavailability of generic and branded medicine to which Dr. Joshi replied that we can add this point in IA if we had enough documents to prove it and requested attendees to provide such documents.

Meeting ended at 10.20 pm

Dr. Rajeev Joshi

Dr. Ashish Khatod