

\$~54

\* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**  
+ **W.P.(C) 1589/2023 and CM APPL. 6039/2023**  
**TEAM LEASE EDUCATION FOUNDATION** ..... Petitioner  
Through: Mr. S.K. Gupta, Advocate.

versus  
**UNION OF INDIA & ORS.** ..... Respondents  
Through: Mr. Anil Soni (CGSC) with Mr.  
Devvrat Yadav, Advocate for UOI.

**CORAM:**  
**JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH**

**ORDER**  
% **07.02.2023**

1. This hearing has been done through hybrid mode.
2. The Petitioner- Team Lease Education Foundation, a National Employability Enhancement Scheme (NEEM) agent, who was recognised by the Government of India, has challenged the impugned order dated 23rd December, 2022 by which NEEM has been discontinued, with immediate effect. The said order issued by the Technical Section-II, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and communicated to the Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) reads as:

*Subject: National Employability Enhancement Scheme (NEEM) - regarding*

*Sir, I am directed to refer to AICTE letter F. No. 3-1/D-SDC/NEEM/2021 dated 11.08.2022 regarding revised draft NEEM guidelines forwarded to the Ministry for consideration and to convey that it has been decided to discontinue the Scheme with immediate effect.*

*2. In light of the above, AICTE is requested to close the above scheme with immediate effect.*

3. The Petitioner challenges the above decision of the Respondents to discontinue the NEEM scheme and the resulting letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022.
4. The case of the Petitioner is that under the NEEM scheme, which was notified on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, in the Gazette of India, training is imparted to students in various skills to enable them to secure employment. The purpose of the NEEM Scheme is to facilitate upskilling and make Indian youth ready for employment in various industries.
5. The case of the Petitioner is that in view of the impugned order/letter, as per the Petitioner, more than 26,000 students who are receiving training would be impacted. Considering the large scale impact of the impugned letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022, Mr. Anil Soni, Id. Counsel would seek instructions in the matter.
6. In the meantime, it is made clear that the Petitioner shall make no fresh admissions. However, considering the fact that the NEEM Scheme has been in operation for the last decade or so, the sudden stoppage of the scheme could result in adverse impact on those who are already enrolled. Accordingly, the students currently enrolled with the Petitioner shall continue to receive the training as also any certifications that would otherwise have been given to them under the NEEM Scheme.
7. The Court also directs a responsible official from the concerned Ministry to remain present in Court on the next date of hearing.
8. List on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

**PRATHIBA M. SINGH, J.**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

*dj/am*