

HC: Show Licence Of Pharmacist With Picture In Shops (26-03-2018)

CHANDIGARH, 23 MARCH 2018: The Punjab and Haryana high court has asked the state of Punjab and the administration of Chandigarh to ensure that the photo licenses of registered pharmacist are displayed prominently inside the shop to ascertain the presence of pharmacists and sale of scheduled drugs under their supervision.

Earlier, the high court had passed such directions in July 2017 for the state of Haryana.

The move would help crack down on pharmacies and medical stores being run on rented registration certificates and involved in selling habit-forming intoxicants over the counter to make quick money.

Division bench headed by Justice Surya Kant passed these orders after considering the suggestions given by advocate Navkiran Singh, who is assisting the HC as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in the ongoing Punjab drug haul case.

"It is rightly pointed out by Navkiran Singh that such directions are required to be issued in respect of the state of Punjab, and U T, Chandigarh also. Let state of Punjab as well as U T, Chandigarh also file their respective status reports on the next date of hearing. The states of Punjab, Haryana and U T, Chandigarh shall further explain the process evolved by them for displaying the licenses for retail and wholesale medical stores", ordered the bench in its March 15 orders.

The court was informed that several chemist shops in the region were being run by persons who had allegedly taken pharmacists' licenses on a monthly rent. It was also stated that such medical stores were major source of sale of pharmaceutical drugs that are being used as intoxicant by the youth.

The HC has also asked the assistant solicitor general of India Chetan Mittal to find out whether the central government has circulated the model rules under the Mental Health Care Act 2017 to the state governments.

"If such model rules/guidelines are required to be notified, he should take up the matter with the central government to expedite the notification so that the state governments can be asked to modify their own rules to bring them in conformity with the new Act", directed the HC.

The case would now come up for hearing on May 9.

The directions from the HC had come in the wake of an ongoing matter related to the Punjab drug haul case. In this matter, the HC has taken suo motu cognizance of drug menace in the state of Punjab.