

High Court lifts stay on city colleges collecting excess fee

The Madras High Court has vacated an interim injunction restraining the Loyola College and Stella Maris College here from collecting fees in excess of the approved fee fixed by the government.

The stay pertained to aided under-graduate and post-graduate courses.

A common order was passed by the First Bench consisting of the Chief Justice M.Y. Eqbal and Justice T.S. Sivagnanam. The Bench said though the interim injunction was made absolute earlier, at this stage, it was of the definite opinion that such an order should not continue further..

The Bench posted the matter for further hearing on October 29. On that day, it would be decided as to whether the internal fight between two groups of persons belonging to a church should be treated as public interest litigation.

Originally, the Tamil Nadu Catholic Minorities Welfare Association, represented by its secretary, V.Amalraj, filed a writ petition for a direction to the government to verify and monitor the fee collected by Loyola College insofar as the aided course of study was concerned as per the norms fixed by the government.

He also sought the appointment of a permanent committee to determine the nature of fee to be levied by the colleges functioning within the State in general and in particular by the college.

In a petition, the Federation of Catholic Faithful, represented by its general secretary, Clement Selvaraj, filed a petition praying for a similar direction with regard to Stella Maris College.

It also sought a direction to the college to refund the excess fee collected.