

'Pharma cos to get benefit for helping poor patients'

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The Delhi High Court was today informed by the Centre that pharma companies will get benefit under corporate social responsibility rules if they donate medicines to poor patients who are afflicted by life threatening or other diseases and can't afford expensive treatment.

The said submission was made by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) before the HC bench of Justice Manmohan. The bench had earlier questioned whether pharmaceutical firms will get CSR credit if they donate medicines as the rules say that work done by corporates in their 'normal course of business' will not entail this benefit.

Advocate Maneesha Dhir, appearing for the ministry, today said that pharma companies will get benefit of CSR if they donate medicines.

HELPING HAND TOWARDS POOR



The pharma companies will get benefit of CSR if they donate medicines to poor patients who are afflicted by life threatening or other diseases and can't afford expensive treatment

The court also asked the ministry to make this clarification official by way of inserting an explanatory note in the CSR rules regarding this aspect.

The bench was also informed by the ministry that it has decided to amend the entries in the CSR policy to the extent that 'promoting preventive health care' will be modified to 'promoting health care including preventive health care'.

The court was hearing final arguments in two petitions, one seeking treatment for a

rickshawpuller's minor son who is suffering from Gaucher, a degenerative genetic disorder, and another by a haemophiliac who is pleading to be treated at state expense as his family has run out of money.

The court also directed the Centre and Delhi government to explore the possibility of releasing money from various relief funds including that of the Prime Minister and the Lt Governor for treatment of the bed-ridden haemophiliac man.

Govt.