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Title: Need to withdraw the petition filed by the Central Government in Supreme Court challenging the decision of the Government of Maharashtra cancelling reservation quota of Centre for admission to medical course in Maharashtra -Laid.

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR) : Sir, the graduate medical students of Maharashtra were not getting enough opportunities for higher education. Over last three years, the number of seats allotted to Maharashtra was 6 per year on the basis of all India quota. This was a great injustice to local students giving rise to great resentment.

In order to correct this situation, the Government at Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council have passed the legislation unanimously removing Central Government quota reservation. This legislation has been promulgated by an Act of 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2003 by the State Governor. This progressive step taken in the interest of poor students in Maharashtra has now been challenged in the Supreme Court by Central Government. This step by Central Government is taking the progress of Maharashtra backwards.

I, therefore, earnestly request the Union Government to find the way of this and withdraw the petition from Supreme Court.