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## Maha govt files plea in SC to get stay order on Maratha quota 'vacated'

Sujit.Mahamulkar@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Monday filed an application before a larger bench of the Supreme Court to have its interim stay order on Maratha reservation "vacated." The Chief Minister's Office confirmed the state government had approached a larger bench on the implementation of the socially and educationally backward classes (SEBC) quota in the state. The SC, while staying Maratha reservations for government jobs and academic admissions for 2020-21, had expressed its prima facie opinion that "Maharashtra has not shown any extraordinary situation for providing reservation to Marathas in excess of 50 per cent."

It had also said the "Bombay high court committed an error" in treating the factors like social, educational and economic backwardness as circumstances which are extraordinary, warranting relaxation of the 50 per cent rule.

The SC said providing reservation during pendency of appeal "will cause

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irreparable loss to candidates belonging to the open category."

PWD minister Ashok Chavan, who heads the cabinet sub-committee on the Maratha reservation issue, said the state's plea will now be considered by the Chief Justice of India. "The issue was discussed with political leaders and various organisations, and the Act has been

passed in the state legislature unanimously, so there is no dispute over the reservation. The issue is now in the court of law, and we have approached the court to resolve it. The government has started the process and made an application before the SC to have the interim stay order vacated," he said.

Chavan said CM Uddhav Thackeray

will, in a day or two, issue a detailed statement on the admissions and recruitment process or issues related to the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research Training and Human Development Institute (Sarathi), a non-profit government company formed for development of the Maratha community. The minister added the counsels will mention the matter in the SC and try to get an early date for hearing.

Maratha community leaders welcomed the government's move. "We now expect the state to get a date at the earliest," said Vinod Patil, convenor of Maratha Kranti Morcha.

Another convenor, Sanjeev Bhor-Patil, said that while he was happy about the government's move, the state needed to put the police recruitment process on hold until the SC's verdict. "Why is the government in a hurry to fill 12,000 posts of police constables amid the Covid-19 pandemic? The recruitment can be put on hold till the SC gives its final order on Maratha reservation," Bhor said.