

NCDRC cannot overstep its power & jurisdiction to travel beyond the pleadings in the complaint case and build up a new case on its own

The Supreme Court in the case of **Deep Nursing Home vs Manmeet Singh Mattewal [2025 INSC 1094]** dated **September 09, 2025**, has held that the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) had wrongly awarded the compensation of Rs. 10 lacs by inventing a case of 'antenatal negligence' against the doctors, even though the original complaint was confined to 'post-delivery negligence'. Accordingly, the Apex Court ordered the complainant to refund Rs. 10 lacs received by him as compensation.

The Apex Court reiterated that it would be impermissible to build a new case which was never pleaded in the pleadings/complaint. Since the NCDRC had gone beyond its jurisdiction when it faulted the doctor for alleged “antenatal negligence” despite the complainant's case being restricted to “post-delivery negligence”, the Apex Court held that NCDRC exceeded its jurisdiction in awarding compensation for “antenatal negligence”.

The Apex Court also observed that the NCDRC clearly erred in building up a new case on his behalf and in pinning negligence and liability upon Dr. Kanwarjit Kochhar in the context of antenatal care and management of the patient, which was never the subject matter of the complaint case. In doing so, the NCDRC overstepped its power and jurisdiction as it was not for it to travel beyond the pleadings in the complaint case and build up a new case on its own.

The Court observed that once the NCDRC had held there was no negligence in the delivery or post-delivery treatment of the complainant's wife, the matter had attained finality, especially since the complainants did not file a separate appeal, thereby closing the case.

[Click on the link to read the original judgment](#)