

Q. What is euthanasia? Analyse the decision of supreme court on euthanasia.

Euthanasia is a Greek term which means "good death" in literal sense. It means intentionally ending a life to relieve pain and suffering. Euthanasia can be active or passive. Passive euthanasia involves withdrawal of life support systems of a patient to relieve his pain and end his life on the other hand active euthanasia involves administration of lethal compounds or injections to end a life.

Active euthanasia is permitted in a few countries like Belgium, Japan, some states of USA and passive euthanasia is allowed in Norway, Finland and recently India has also permitted passive euthanasia under certain specific conditions.

Supreme court gave its decision regarding the Anura shanbag case when she was in a permanent vegetative state and died in 2015. The decision of supreme court in march 2018 permitted withdrawal of life support systems of persons in a permanent vegetative state or terminal illness. How a living will for

UPSC Q.C.A

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The decision has proved to be <sup>unhelpful</sup> pleasing for the people who are ill and who want to end their pain and sufferings. This has encouraged more and more people to find their medical will when they are alive and it will be helpful in controlling disease-related suicides. Passive euthanasia may prove as a boon for the old people.

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