

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (NCMEI)**

Case No. 196 of 2022

In the matter of :-

**Vardhman Academy, Radha Garden, Ganga Nagar, Meerut,
Uttar Pradesh**

.....Petitioner

V/s

**Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Secondary
Education, Bapu Bhawan, 7th Floor, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-
226001**

..... Respondent

Present: Mr. Sanjay Jain for the petitioner
None for the respondent

ORDER

DATED 11.05.2023

Justice Narendra Kumar Jain, Chairman, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 06.10.2022 by hand through Mr. Atul Kumar Jain, Secretary on behalf of the Vardhman Academy, Meerut, UP for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to Vardhman Academy, Radha Garden, Ganga Nagar, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
2. The Petitioner Institution filed an affidavit of Mr. Atul Kumar Jain, Secretary of Jain Boarding House Society in support of the averments made in the petition and also to prove that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are members of the Jain minority community, notarized copy of Unique ID No. : UP/2017/0163931 of the petitioner's Society as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, notarized copy of application dated 01.09.2021 sent to the State Competent Authority i.e. Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Secondary Education alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copy of Certificate of Registration of Jain Boarding House Society, notarized copy of Memorandum of Association dated 06.08.2015 alongwith list of founding and present members of the Society, notarized copy of

affiliation order dated 19.08.2020 issued by the CBSE to the unaided petitioner institution for Senior Secondary Level from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024 and resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Mr. Atul Kumar Jain, Secretary of Jain Boarding House Society for obtaining MSC from this Commission.

3. As per the information supplied by the unaided petitioner institution with regard to students strength in Academic Year 2022-23, it is mentioned that out of the total 820 students, 20 students are from the Jain minority community and 800 students are Hindus. It is relevant to mention here that in Academic Year 2022-23, it is mentioned that out of the total 52 teachers, only 1 teacher is from the Jain minority community. Hon'ble Apex Court, various High Courts as well as this Commission in case of Buckley Primary School, Cuttack, Orissa Vs. Government of Orissa (order passed by this Commission in Case No. 1320 of 2009 dated 6.7.2010) have categorically held that the percentage of admission of students from notified minority community in a minority educational institution is not an indicia for determining the minority status of such institution. This Commission has also decided in many cases as per the judgement of Hon'ble Apex Court in T.M.A. Pai Foundation Vs The State of Karnataka (2002) 8 SCC 481, a minority whether linguistic or religious is determinable only by reference to demography of the State and not by taking into consideration the population of the country as a whole. We are aware of the Buckley Judgement passed by this Commission but there must be reasonable strength of students of minority community in a minority institution and in our considered opinion the percentage could be determined based on the actual proportion of specific minority community in the State population as per prevailing census. Population of Jain minority community in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per the census of 2011 is 0.11%.
4. It is stated in the petition that on dated 01.09.2021, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on

03.09.2021 and the said application is still pending before the State Competent Authority. The State Competent Authority has not granted NOC in favour of the petitioner institution till now and also not rejected the said application and not communicated the same to the petitioner. After 90 days from the receipt of the application for grant of NOC, the petitioner has filed this application for grant of MSC to this Commission straightway as per the provisions of Section 10 and 11(f) of National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (in short 'NCMEI') Act, 2004.

5. Despite service of registered notice/email dated 21.12.2022, no reply / response has been received from the respondent. Thereafter in the facts and circumstances of the case, Commission deemed fit and proper that physical inspection report alongwith recommendation may be obtained from the Committee constituted by this Commission for issuance of MSC to the petitioner institution vide order dated 09.02.2023, after service of letter / email to the physical inspection committee dated 14.02.2023, Physical Inspection Committee, Meerut has sent physical inspection report dated 19.04.2023 which was received in the Commission's Office on dated 20.04.2022 wherein they have recommended to grant MSC to the petitioner institution.
6. Heard and perused the pleading of the petitioner, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Mr. Atul Kumar Jain, Secretary of Jain Boarding House Society.
7. The petitioner institution has applied for grant of minority status certificate on the ground that the same has been established primarily for the benefit of the members of the Jain minority community and is being administered by Jain Boarding House Society which is managed and run by the members of the Jain minority community. The aforesaid averments made in the petition find ample corroboration from the documentary evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner institution and the affidavit of Mr. Atul Kumar Jain, Secretary of Jain Boarding House Society.

8. We have perused the Memorandum of Association of the petitioner institution which was registered before the Registrar on dated 06.08.2015 which is before the filing of NOC applications U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 01.09.2021 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 06.10.2022. So it is clear that the amendment has been done before the application filed before the State Competent Authority U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 and also petition for grant of MSC before this Commission.
9. The Memorandum of Association dated 06.08.2015 and all the documents produced by the petitioner institution clearly reflects that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are primarily the members of the Jain minority community. In addition, the said facts also stands proved from the documents and affidavit filed by the petitioner. There is no document on record to rebut the documentary evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner institution.
10. Relying on the said unrebutted evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner, we find and hold that Vardhman Academy, Radha Garden, Ganga Nagar, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh run by Jain Boarding House Society is eligible for grant of minority status on religious basis. The evidence also proves that the said educational institution was established with the main objective of sub-serving the interests of the Jain minority community.
11. Consequently, Vardhman Academy, Radha Garden, Ganga Nagar, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, which is for Senior Secondary Level, is declared as an unaided minority educational institution covered under Article 30 of the Constitution of India within the meaning of Section 2(g) of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004 subject to the condition that the petitioner would file an affidavit or undertaking to the fact that the petitioner institution shall not deny admission of eligible candidate of the Jain minority community subject to the eligibility of the students and availability of the accommodation in the petitioner institution. If the petitioner institution failed to comply the above

order of this Commission within a period of three months from the date of order passed by this Commission then the petition filed by the petitioner for grant of MSC will be automatically deemed to be dismissed.

12. After compliance of the above order, a minority status certificate be issued accordingly.
13. In view of the above, the present petition is disposed of in accordance with this order.

Signed, pronounced and published on **Thursday, 11th Day of May, 2023.**

**JUSTICE NARENDRA KUMAR JAIN
CHAIRMAN**

**DR. JASPAL SINGH
MEMBER**

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