

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

Case No. 204 of 2023

In the matter of :-

**St. John Paul School, Bamhrauli Moth, District Jhansi,
Uttar Pradesh-284303**

..... **Petitioner**

V/s

**Additional Chief Secretary, Basic Education Department,
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Babu Bhawan, 7th Floor,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226001**

..... **Respondent**

Present: Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate for the petitioner
None for the respondents

ORDER

DATED 25.04.2024

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 04.08.2023 by hand through Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to St. John Paul School, Bamhrauli Moth, District Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh-284303.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed an affidavit of Fr. Denis D' Souza, Secretary of the Catholic Diocese of Jhansi Education 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 Christian minority community and also stating that the petitioner institution shall not deny admission of eligible candidate of the Christian minority community subject to the eligibility of the students and availability of the accommodation in the petitioner institution.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has filed notarized copy of Unique ID No. : UP/2017/0154117 of the petitioner's Society as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, photocopy of application dated 19.04.2023 sent to the State Competent Authority i.e. Additional Chief Secretary, Basic Education Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, certified copy of Certificate of Registration of Catholic Diocese of Jhansi Education Society, certified copy of Memorandum of Association alongwith list of founding members of the Society, certified copy of Amended Memorandum of Association dated 03.11.2015 alongwith list of present members of the Society, notarized copy of letter dated 25.04.2023 issued by the Registrar of Society confirming the date of registration of Amended Memorandum of Association, notarized copy of permanent Recognition Order dated 19.10.2022 issued by the District Basic Education Officer, Jhansi to the unaided petitioner institution for the Pre-Primary, Primary and Junior School and resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Fr. Denis D' Souza, Secretary of the Catholic Diocese of Jhansi Education Society for obtaining MSC from this Commission.
4. As per the information supplied by the petitioner unaided institution with regard to students strength as on Academic Year 2021-22, it is mentioned that out of total 412 students, 6 students were from the Christian minority community, 10 students were from the Muslim minority community, 1 student was from the Jain minority community and 395 students were Hindus, in the year 2022-23, it is mentioned that out of total 834 students, 10 students were from the Christian minority community, 18 students were from the Muslim minority community, 1 student was from the Jain minority community and 805 students were Hindus, in the year 2023-24, it is

mentioned that out of total 940 students, it is mentioned that out of total 940 students, 11 students are from the Christian minority community, 20 students are from the Muslim minority community, 2 students are from the Jain minority community and 907 students are Hindus. It is relevant to mention here that in the year 2021-22, out of the total 29 teachers, 10 teachers were from Christian Minority community, in the year 2022-23, out of the total 36 teachers, 16 teachers were from Christian Minority community and in the year 2023-24, out of the total 39 teachers, 21 teachers are from Christian Minority community.

5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 19.04.2023, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 24.04.2023 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 petition 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.
6. Despite service of registered notice / email dated 18.08.2023, 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 08.11.2023. After service of letter/email to the physical inspection

committee dated 07.12.2023, Physical Inspection Committee, Jhansi District has sent physical inspection report dated 11.02.2024 which was received in the Commission's Office on dated 14.02.2024 wherein they have recommended to grant MSC to the petitioner institution.

7. Heard the Learned Counsel for the petitioner, perused the pleading of the petition, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Fr. Denis D' Souza, Secretary of the Catholic Diocese of Jhansi Education Society.
8. 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 the 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 that there must be reasonable strength of students of particular minority community in a minority educational institution. The percentage could be determined based on the actual proportion of specific minority community in the State population as per prevailing census. Population of Christian minority community in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per the census of 2011 is 0.18%.
9. 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 Christian minority community and is being administered by Catholic Diocese of Jhansi Education Society which is managed and run by the members of the Christian 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 Fr. Denis D' Souza, Secretary of the Catholic Diocese of Jhansi Education Society.

10. I have perused the Amended Memorandum of Association of the petitioner institution which was registered before the Assistant Registrar of Societies on dated 03.11.2015 which is before the filing of NOC applications U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 19.04.2023 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 04.08.2023. 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.
11. The Amended Memorandum of Association dated 03.11.2015 and all the documents produced by the petitioner institution clearly reflects that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are primarily the members of the Christian 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.
12. Relying on the said unrebutted evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner, we find and hold that St. John Paul School, Bamhrauli Moth, District Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh-284303 run by Catholic Diocese of Jhansi Education 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 Christian minority community.
13. Consequently, St. John Paul School, Bamhrauli Moth, District Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh-284303 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.

14. A minority status certificate be issued accordingly.
15. In view of the above, the present petition is disposed of in accordance with this order.

Signed, pronounced and published on **Thursday, 25th Day of April, 2024.**

**DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER**

VB