

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

CASE NO. 256 OF 2023

In the matter of:

Doon International School, 392, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh – 208 022.

... Petitioner

Versus

Additional Chief Secretary, Basic Education Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Babu Bhawan, 7th Floor, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – 226 001.

... Respondent

Present: Mr. Junais P., Advocate for the petitioner.
None for the respondent.

ORDER

Date: 24.09.2024

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 25.09.2023 by hand through Mr. Junais P., Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to Doon International School, 392, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed the affidavit of Mr. Amar Preet Singh, Trustee, Pt. Jagatram Mayadevi Bharadwaj Dharmarth Trust and authorized representative of the petitioner institution, in support of the averments made in the petition and also to prove that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are members of the Sikh minority community.
3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has filed a copy of Unique ID No.: UP/2023/0354616 of the petitioner's trust as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, copy of the application dated 24.04.2023 submitted before the State Competent authority for NOC alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copies of Trust Deed and Supplementary Trust Deed alongwith list of members of the Pt. Jagatram Mayadevi Bharadwaj Dharmarth Trust and original Governing Body Resolution to obtain minority status certificate from this Commission, which is signed by all the trustees of the said trust. He has also filed notarized copy of affiliation order of the petitioner institution issued by the CBSE.

4. As per the information supplied by the unaided petitioner institution with regard to students' strength during the academic year 2020-21, it is mentioned that out of the total 1433 students, 21 students were from the Muslim minority community, 61 students were from the Sikh minority community and 1351 students were Hindu. In the year 2021-22, it is mentioned that out of the total 1424 students, 17 students were from the Muslim minority community, 62 students were from the Sikh minority community and 1345 students were Hindu. In the year 2022-23, it is mentioned that out of the total 1524 students, 19 students were from the Muslim minority community, 66 students were from the Sikh minority community and 1439 students were Hindu. It is relevant to mention here that during the academic year 2020-21, out of the total 51 teachers, 02 teachers were from the Muslim minority community, 01 teacher was from Christian minority community, 20 teachers were from Sikh minority community and 28 teachers were Hindu. In the year 2021-22, out of the total 60 teachers, 02 teachers were from the Muslim minority community, 01 teacher was from Christian minority community, 19 teachers were from Sikh minority community and 38 teachers were Hindu. In the year 2022-23, out of the total 67 teachers, 03 teachers were from the Muslim minority community, 01 teacher was from Christian minority community, 21 teachers were from Sikh minority community and 42 teachers were Hindu.

5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 24.04.2023, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 28.04.2023 and the same 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.

6. Despite service of registered notice/email dated 08.11.2023, 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 05.12.2023, after service of letter/ email to the physical inspection committee dated 08.01.2024, District Magistrate, Kanpur Nagar, has sent physical inspection report dated 15.03.2024, which was received in the Commission's Office on dated 28.03.2024 wherein they have recommended to grant minority status certificate to the petitioner institution.

7. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner, perused the pleadings, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Mr. Amar Preet Singh, Trustee, Pt. Jagatram Mayadevi Bharadwaj Dharmarth Trust and authorized representative of the petitioner institution.

8. 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 Sikh minority community and is being administered by the Pt. Jagatram Mayadevi Bharadwaj Dharmarth Trust, which is managed and run by the members of the Sikh 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. Amar Preet Singh, Trustee, Pt. Jagatram Mayadevi Bharadwaj Dharmarth Trust and authorized representative of the petitioner institution.

9. 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 06.07.2010) 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 Sikh minority community in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per the census of 2011 is 0.32%.

10. I have perused the Supplementary Trust Deed of the Pt. Jagatram Mayadevi Bharadwaj Dharmarth Trust, which was registered before the Deputy Registrar, Kanpur on dated 20.04.2023 which is before the filing of NOC application U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 24.04.2023 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 25.09.2023.

11. The Supplementary Trust Deed of the Pt. Jagatram Mayadevi Bharadwaj Dharmarth Trust and all the documents produced by the petitioner institution clearly reflect that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are primarily the members of the Sikh minority community. In addition, the said fact 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 before this Commission.

12. Relying on the said unrebutted evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner, we find and hold that the Doon International School, 392, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, 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 Sikh minority community.

13. Consequently, Doon International School, 392, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is declared as 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 Sikh 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.

14. After compliance of the above order, 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 **Tuesday, 24th day of September, 2024.**

**DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER**