GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

CASE NO. 205 OF 2023

In the matter of:

Jain Bharti Model School, E – Block, Sector – 16, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi – 100085

... Petitioner

Versus

Assistant Director of Education (Act), Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, Room No. 214-A, Old Secretariat, Delhi – 110 054.

... Respondent

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

<u>ORDER</u>

Date: 06.02.2025

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 08.08.2023 by hand through Mr. Junais P., Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to Jain Bharti Model School, E – Block, Sector – 16, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi – 100085.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed affidavit of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jain, General Secretary, Skyland Educational Society and authorized representative of 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 Jain minority community.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has filed a notarized copy of Unique ID No.: DL/2018/0219758 of the petitioner's Society as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, copy of the application dated 13.12.2022 submitted before the State Competent authority for NOC alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copies of Certificate of Registration, notarized copy of Memorandum of Association alongwith list of founding members of the Society, notarized copy of Rules and Regulations ,notarized copy of Amended Memorandum of Association alongwith list of present members of the Society. He has also filed notarized of affiliation order dated 01.10.2020 issued by the Deputy Director/Joint Secretary (Aff), CBSE to the unaided petitioner institution from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026 for the Secondary/Senior Secondary Level to the petitioner institution. He has filed original resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jain, General Secretary, "Skyland Educational Society" for obtaining MSC from this Commission.

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 545 students, 10 students were from the Muslim minority community, 02 students were from the Christian minority community, 09 students were from the Sikh minority community, 14 students were from the Jain minority community and 510 students were Hindu. In the year 2021-22, it is mentioned that out of the total 567 students. 14 students were from the Muslim minority community. 02 students were from the Christian minority community, 07 students were from the Sikh minority community, 14 students were from the Jain minority community and 530 students were Hindu. In the year 2022-23, it is mentioned that out of the total 575 students, 19 students were from the Muslim minority community, 02 students were from the Christian minority community, 09 students were from the Sikh minority community, 14 students were from the Jain minority community and 531 students were Hindu. It is relevant to mention here that during the academic year 2020-21, out of the total 29 teachers, 01 teacher was from Sikh minority community, 05 teachers were from Jain minority community, 23 teachers were Hindu. In the year 2021-22, out of the total 32 teachers, 01 teacher was from Sikh minority community, 04 teachers were from Jain minority community, 27 teachers were Hindu. In the year 2022-23, out of the total 31 teachers, 01 teacher was from Sikh minority community, 02 teachers were from Jain minority community, and 28 teachers were Hindu.

5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 13.12.2022, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 14.12.2022 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 28.11.2023 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 22.02.2024, after service of letter/ email to the physical inspection committee dated 26.03.2024 and 26.06.2024, the District Social Welfare Officer (Member Secretary), District North West I & II, Delhi, has sent physical inspection report dated

22.08.2024, which was received in the Commission's Office on dated 22.08.2024 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. Sanjeev Kumar Jain, General Secretary, "Skyland Educational Society" and authorized representative of 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 Jain minority community and is being administered by the Skyland Educational 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. Sanjeev Kumar Jain, General Secretary, Skyland Educational Society and authorized representative of 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 Jain minority community in the State of Delhi as per the census of 2011 is 0.99%.

10. I have perused the amended Memorandum of Association of the petitioner institution, which was registered before the Registrar of Society, Dist North-West, Delhi, on dated 08.07.2021 which is before the filing of NOC application U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 13.12.2022 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 08.08.2023.

11. The amended Memorandum of Association dated 08.07.2021 of the said Society and all the documents produced by the petitioner institution clearly reflect that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are primarily the members of the Jain 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 Jain Bharti Model School, E - Block, Sector – 16, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi – 100085, run by the Skyland

Educational 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.

13. Consequently, Jain Bharti Model School, E – Block, Sector – 16, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi – 100085, 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 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.

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 Thursday, 06th day of February, 2025.

DR. SHAHID AKHTER MEMBER

DSS