

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

Case No. 272 of 2023

In the matter of :-

**St. Joseph's Public School, Survey No. 3/p, 5/p, Sama Nagar
Colony, Kalvancha (V), Hayathnagar (M), Rangareddy District,
Hyderabad, Telangana - 501505**

..... Petitioner

V/s

**Secretary, Minorities Welfare Department, Government of
Telangana, "D" Block, Ground Floor, Telangana Secretariat,
Hyderabad-500022**

..... Respondent

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

ORDER

DATED 13.02.2025

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 29.09.2023 by hand through Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to St. Joseph's Public School, Survey No. 3/p, 5/p, Sama Nagar Colony, Kalvancha (V), Hayathnagar (M), Rangareddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed an affidavit of Mr. U. Alexander Reddy, Managing Trustee of the St. Joseph's Education Trust 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 copy of Unique ID No. : TS/2023/0353969 of the petitioner's Trust as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, photocopy of application dated 27.03.2023 sent to the State Competent Authority i.e. Secretary, Minorities Welfare Department alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copy of Trust Deed of St.

Joseph's Education Trust, alongwith list of founding Trustee, notarized copy of certificate of recognition order dated 19.09.2023 issued by the District Educational Officer, Ranga Reddy District for the academic year 2022-2023 to 2031-2032 and resolution of the General Body of the Trust in favour of Mr. U. Alexander Reddy, Managing Trustee of the St. Joseph's Education Trust for obtaining MSC from this Commission.

4. As per the information supplied by the petitioner unaided institution with regard to students strength in Academic Year 2022-23, it is mentioned that out of total 1072 students, 16 students were from the Muslim minority community, 54 students were from the Christian minority community, 05 students were from the Sikh minority community, 01 student was from the Jain minority community, and 996 students were Hindus, In Academic Year 2023-24, it is mentioned that out of total 1391 students, 19 students were from the Muslim minority community, 112 students were from the Christian minority community, 06 students were from the Sikh minority community, 01 student was from the Jain minority community, and 1253 students were Hindus. It is relevant to mention here that in Academic Year 2022-23, out of 62 teachers, 24 teachers were from the Christian Minority community and 38 teachers were Hindus in Academic Year 2023-24, out of 83 teachers, 28 teachers were from the Christian Minority community and 55 teachers were Hindus.
5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 27.03.2023, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 28.03.2023 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. After service of registered notice dated 28.11.2023 and 20.03.2024, Secretary to Government on behalf of the respondent has sent letter dated 18.12.2023 which was received in the Commission's Office on dated 22.12.2023 which is taken on record wherein they have stated that the NOC

application dated 27.03.2023 filed by the petitioner institution is not feasible for consideration and advise them to submit their applications for grant of MSC as per the guidelines issued vide GO Ms. No. 1, Minorities Welfare (M&R) Department dated 16.01.2004 before Govt. of Telangana for taking further action in the matter.

7. Learned Counsel for the petitioner filed subsequent pleadings and contended that the petitioner institution is a religious minority institution and run by St. Joseph's Education Trust which is a registered Trust constituted by the members of the Christian minority community primarily for the benefit of Christian minority community. On dated 27.03.2023, the petitioner institution had submitted an application for grant of NOC under section 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 before the respondent. After the completion of 90 days from the date of receipt of the said application the petitioner institution applied for MSC before this Commission and this case is a fit case of intervention by this Commission. This Commission is functioning as per the NCMEI Act, 2004 read with the judicial pronouncements of the Apex Court for the purpose of declaration of MSC. Respondent stated that the NOC application filed by the petitioner institution is not feasible for consideration and advise them to submit their applications for grant of MSC as per the guidelines issued vide GO Ms. No. 1, Minorities Welfare (M&R) Department dated 16.01.2004 before Govt. of Telangana for taking further action in the matter. The reply filed by the respondent is not sustainable in the eye of law. Hon'ble Supreme Court in Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny Vs. The State of West Bengal (Civil Appeal No. 3945 of 2018) decision dated 18.04.2018 in which Hon'ble Supreme Court has settled the law with regard to the applicability of Section 10 and 11 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 and in view of the said pronouncement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court the stand taken by the respondent will not survive in the eyes of law and, therefore, prayed that this Commission may issue MSC to the petitioner institution in the interest of justice and equity.
8. After service of letter/email to the physical inspection committed dated 05.07.2024 and 20.09.2024, District Collector, Ranga Reddy District, has send physical inspector report dated 05.11.2024, which was received in the Commission's Office on dated 12.11.2024 wherein they have not recommended to grant minority status certificate to the petitioner institution but they have not given any adverse remarks. As per census report of 2011 Christian minority community in the state of Telangana is 1.27%. it is mentioned in the physical inspection report that in the year 2024-25, out of the total 1526 students, 116 students are from the Christian minority community, which is 7% the total student which is more than the state census of 2011 i.e. 1.27%.
9. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner, perused the pleading of the parties, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Mr. U. Alexander Reddy, Managing Trustee of the St. Joseph's Education Trust.
10. 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 St. Joseph's Education Trust 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 Mr. U. Alexander Reddy, Managing Trustee of the St. Joseph's Education Trust.

11. The respondent has not replied properly to the application submitted by the petitioner institution. Respondent has also failed to appreciate the provisions of NCMEI Act, 2004 especially under section 10 of the said Act and filed reply wrongly before this Commission. The Petitioner has not applied for grant of MSC before the State Competent Authority. Petitioner has applied for grant of NOC under section 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 before the State competent authority. So the guidelines of the Government of Telangana is not applied to the present petitioner institution. In the facts and circumstances of the present case the stand taken by the respondent is not tenable in the eye of law and deserves to be ignored.
12. The petitioner institution has fulfilled all the criteria for grant of MSC. The Competent Authority has failed to consider their application for grant of NOC. To obtain minority status certificate is a constitutional right of minority educational institution. The petitioner institution is established and administered by the members of the Christian minority community. The reply filed by the respondent is clearly against the verdict of Hon'ble Apex Court in the matter of SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY V/S THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS (Civil Appeal No. 3945/2018, Judgement dated 18/04/2018), which reads as follows :-

“However, Section 10(1), which was introduced at the same time as Section 11(f) by the Amendment Act of 2006, carves out one facet of the aforesaid power contained in Section 11(f), namely the grant of a no objection certificate to a minority educational institution at its inception. Thus, any person who desires to establish a minority educational institution after the Amendment Act of 2006 came into force, must apply only to the competent authority for the grant of a no objection certificate for the said purpose. It is a little difficult to subscribe to Shri Hedge's argument that the said powers are concurrent. Harmoniously read, all applications, for the establishment of a minority educational institution after the Amendment Act of 2006 must go only to the competent authority set up under the statute. On the other hand, for the declaration of its status a minority educational institution at any state post establishment, the NCMEI would have the power to decide the question and declare such institution's minority status.”
13. As per the provisions of Section 10, Section 12A and Section 12B of the NCMEI Act, 2004, the person who desires to establish minority institution, is to apply to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC for the said purpose under section 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004. The Act of 2004 also conferred powers of appeal against the orders of the competent authority of the State to the NCMEI under Section 12A as well as over the authorities that were established by the Central Government or State Government which reject the application for grant of MSC to an educational institution under section 12B of the NCMEI Act, 2004.
14. Looking to the provisions of the NCMEI Act, 2004 and verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this Commission has both jurisdiction original as well as appellate. Any individual institution who desires to establish minority educational institution has two options. Firstly, he can apply before an

authority established by the Central Government or any State Government, Union Territory as the case may be for grant of MSC to any educational institution and if above authorities rejects the application for grant of MSC, the aggrieved person may appeal against such order of the authority to this Commission under section 12B of NCMEI Act, 2004. Secondly, under section 10 of NCMEI Act, 2004 whosoever desires to establish an minority educational institution has to apply the Competent Authority of the State Government for grant of NOC within a period of 90 days from the receipt of the application, if competent authority does not grant NOC or application has been rejected but not communicated to the petitioner it shall be deemed that NOC has been granted and the petitioner can file an application for grant of MSC straightaway to this Commission. Any person aggrieved by the order of refusal to grant NOC by the competent authority may prefer an appeal before this Commission under section 12A of NCMEI Act, 2004.

15. In my considered opinion educational institution can opt one course, either to file an application for grant of MSC before the State Competent Authority or to file an application for grant of NOC. In the present case petitioner has applied for grant of NOC to the State Competent Authority and the said application is still pending as per the contention of the petitioner institution. The petitioner has not filed any application for grant of MSC before the State Competent Authority, so the GO's as mentioned in the reply of the respondent have no relevance in the present case.
16. 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 Telangana as per the census of 2011 is 1.27%.
17. I have perused the Trust Deed of the petitioner institution which was registered before the Sub-Registrar, Uppal on dated 29.12.2021 which is before the filing of NOC applications U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 27.03.2023 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 29.09.2023. 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.
18. The Trust Deed dated 29.12.2021 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.
19. Relying on the said un rebutted evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner, we find and hold that St. Joseph's Public School, Survey No. 3/p, 5/p, Sama Nagar Colony, Kalvancha (V), Hayathnagar (M), Rangareddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana run by St. Joseph's Education Trust 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 subserving the interests of the Christian minority community.

20. Consequently, St. Joseph's Public School, Survey No. 3/p, 5/p, Sama Nagar Colony, Kalvancha (V), Hayathnagar (M), Rangareddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana, 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.
21. A minority status certificate be issued accordingly.
22. In view of the above, the present petition is disposed of in accordance with this order.

Signed, pronounced and published on **Thursday, 13th Day of February, 2025.**

**DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER**

DSS