

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3221
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
GRANTING MINORITY STATUS TO CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Central Universities which have been given minority status, State-wise;
- (b) the criterion for granting minority status to these Universities;
- (c) the details of facilities given to these Universities which have been granted minority status;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to grant minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESROUCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): Section 2(l) of the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920 defines the University as 'the educational institution of their choice established by the Muslims of India, which originated as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh and which was subsequently incorporated as the Aligarh Muslim University'. Section 5(2)(c) of the Act empowers the University 'to promote especially the educational and cultural advancement of the Muslims of India.' In view of this, the Central Government treats Aligarh Muslim University in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a minority institution within the meaning of Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India. However, the question relating to minority institution status of Aligarh Muslim University is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India where the interpretation of the term 'establishing' a University, as was laid down in the 'Azeez Basha' matter is under challenge. Universities with minority status enjoy the rights under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

The demand for grant of minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University established under the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988, has been received from certain quarters. The orders of the Supreme Court in the AMU matter will have a bearing on the issue relating to the minority character of Jamia Millia Islamia, which is pending before the Hon'ble National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions.