

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 349
ANSWERED ON 03/12/2025**

SC/ST cells in Universities

349 Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of working SC/ST cells established in the colleges of Central Universities;
- (b) the number of complaints received by these SC/ST cells in the last five years, along with the disposal status of such complaints;
- (c) details of the current staff strength of the SC/ST cells in these colleges;
- (d) the criteria and policy governing the appointment and tenure of Liaison Officers in SC/ST cells; and
- (e) whether there is a uniform policy across Central Universities to ensure impartiality and effectiveness in grievance redressal through these cells?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (e): Central Universities and their constituent colleges have established functional SC/ST Cells under the supervision of designated Liaison Officers. The standard staff strength in an SC/ST cell has been prescribed by University Grants Commission (UGC) and University and Colleges follow the same. The term of the Liaison Officer is subject to the administrative requirements and institutional decisions; however, the tenure of SC/ST cell is for period of two years.

The UGC has framed the Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions Regulations, 2012, and the Grievance Redressal Regulations, 2023. Further, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019 ensures protection of SC/ST/OBC rights in appointments by treating the University as a unit for reservation. For timely and impartial grievance redressal, the UGC has also mandated the establishment of Students' Grievance Redressal Committees and the appointment of Ombudspersons in Central Universities as per the 2023 Regulations.
