

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5062**  
ANSWERED ON-03/04/2023

**SC/ST Cells**

**5062. SHRI S. VENKATESAN:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the news that an employee posted in the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) cell at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai had passed casteist remarks about reservation and questioned the “merit” of students availing reservation for admission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to ensure posting of people having social sensitiveness in SC/ST cells of such Central higher educational institutions and for the issuance of instructions to all those institutions in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) keeping in view the complaints on non-inclusion of SCs/STs in other panels of Central higher educational institutions like IIT Mumbai such as Gender cells, the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to ensure such representations also by issuing suitable instructions?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b): There is no such case of any employee from SC/ST cell having passed any casteist remark reported at IIT Bombay. However, a case regarding a seven year old personal, social media post by an employee of IIT Bombay posted in the Student wellness Centre was reported. After the issue came to the notice of the Ministry in 2022, IIT Bombay removed the person from position of the head counsellor of the Student Wellness Centre as per the directions of the Ministry. IIT Bombay has now advertised two positions of Student Counsellor reserved for SC/ST.

(c) to (e): Institutes have set up Gender Cells etc and includes SC/ST liaison officers in the panel. Further, University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued instructions from time to time for diversity in such panels.

\*\*\*\*\*