

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 84  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024**

**SC/ST Cells of Central Universities**

**84 Dr. Alok Kumar Suman:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that SC/ST cells in Central Universities are non-functional and have not conducted any awareness campaign in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the existing Central Universities which do not have any SC/ST cells comply with the UGC guidelines;
- (c) whether there is a lack of funds for the existing SC/ST cells of Central Universities in the country;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure allocation and disbursement of adequate funds for these cells; and
- (e) whether many of the cells do not have any room allotted for meetings and discussions and do not have information regarding reservation or mechanism to check the implementation of reserved quota in the Central Universities ?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (e):** The Central Universities have functional Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Cells to promote inclusivity and ensure the effective implementation of Government policies. SC/ST cells organize awareness programs for students, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff. The Central Government through University Grants Commission (UGC), provides grants to the Central Universities from which expenditure for SC/ST Cell activities is met.

Central Universities under Ministry of Education are statutory autonomous institutions established under respective Central Acts of Parliament and are governed by the provisions of their Acts/Statutes/Ordinances/Regulations. The SC/ST Cells of the Central Universities utilise the infrastructure of their universities for holding meetings and discussions. Further, UGC issues regular advisories to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to prevent discrimination against SC/ST candidates and effective implementation of reservation policies as per Government of India norms.

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