

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 18  
ANSWERED ON 1.12.2025**

**Increase in Common Admission Test (CAT) Fees**

18. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the CAT application fees have increased by approximately 5 per cent as compared to last year, amounting to 31 per cent increase from 2021 to 2025, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons for this repeated increase in the CAT exam fee in the recent years;
- (c) whether the Government is considering any mechanisms to ensure that economically disadvantaged students are not affected by the increased fees, and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the CAT exam fee is non-refundable under any circumstances, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering refund options for candidates who do not appear for the said exam, if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**

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

**(a) to (e):** The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are governed under the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017 as amended from time to time. Under the Act, the IIMs are empowered to determine, specify and receive payments of fees and other charges. The IIMs conduct the Common Admission Test (CAT) on self-financing basis. The CAT application fees in 2025 are 2,600 for General/OBC candidates and ₹ 1,300 for candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PWBD). In the year 2021, this application fee was ₹ 2,200 for general/OBC and ₹ 1,100 for SC, ST and PwBD applicants. The CAT application fee is decided every year to cover the

administrative, logistical, and operational costs involved in conducting the exam in that year on a national scale. The CAT application fee for SC, ST, and PwBD students are kept as half of the fee amount for General students. The fee is non-refundable as the logistics and arrangements for the CAT exam are planned based on the number of candidates who have submitted their application forms and paid the exam fees. This includes organizing venues, scheduling, and preparing the necessary resources for each candidate. Therefore, if a candidate decides not to attend the exam after all these arrangements are made, the fees cannot be refunded, as it would not be feasible to reverse the extensive planning and resource allocation already completed.

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