

Dr. Cyriac Thomas addresses The Management and Heads on minority institutions:

In wake of the current difficulties faced by those running minority institutions in the state , the Rosary Education Group , Pune organized a meet for managements and heads of schools of such institutions from all over Maharashtra.

Dr. Cyriac Thomas , Member , Government of India , National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions had flown in from Delhi especially for the event . On the 16th Dr. Cyriac Thomas interacted with a group of educationists from Mumbai and Pune. Some of those among this distinguished list were His Lordship Bishop Dabre , Mr. P.A. Inamdar , Fr. Simon , Fr. Anthony Charangat , Prof. Mugat .

Various issues and problems faced by the minority schools were discussed at length and a lot of the concerns were laid to rest as Dr. Cyriac addressed the difficulties faced in the existing educational scenario .

With the blessings of His Lordship Bishop Dabre and on the advice of Dr. Cyriac , it was decided to form a State level steering adhoc committee that would help the institutions face these issues and problems with a united front and a common goal to improve the quality of education and reach solutions that would help the various institutions feeling cornered resolve a lot of their problems .

On the 17th Dr. Cyriac Thomas was the key note speaker at an event attended by the Management and Heads of various minority institutions from all over Maharashtra . In his address he spoke of the rights enjoyed by minorities under the constitution of India and said how we should be grateful for the rights and privileges enshrined in the constitution of India , diligently guarded by the Supreme court and the Minority Commission .

Ours is the only country with such vast rights and privileges for minorities . He was quite clear that while claiming our rights we should always work towards fulfilling our responsibilities towards the less fortunate in society. He further explained the working of the Commission by saying that not only are they there to grant minority status but also to set right and give relief if there are any grievances faced by minority institutions .

Trust , Societies or individuals should first apply to their state minority commissions for minority status and if it is not granted within the stipulated ninety days , they should approach the National Minority Commission for Educational Institutions . When approaching the N.C.M.E.I. parties should furnish all factual details as specified in the application .

Dr. Cyriac emphasized that our constant aim should always be to improve the quality of education and move with the demands of the current times .

Father Francis Swamy , an educationist from Mumbai addressed the gathering emphasizing the need to always be informed as to one's rights and that if any education officer requests for any information , these requests should always be made in writing . He thanked Dr. Cyriac for all the information as he feels that many of the minority run institutions are not aware of the role of the N.C.M.E.I.

Fr. Anthony Charangat , editor Examiner , in his address said that we must approach the media and put across our various thoughts to them so as to ensure that they receive correct factual information . He said that the media is a good platform to spread authentic information .

When the floor was opened up to questions , Dr. Cyriac clarified that the RTE is not applicable to unaided minority institutions and that staff approval is not required by these institutions as long as they comply with the minimum qualification required by each teacher .

Mr. Vivek Aranha , Chairman of the Rosary Education Group said that the problems being faced by the minority institutions today are many and the cause of much anxiety among those heading these institutions . He agreed with Dr. Cyriac and said that if these problems were faced with a united front and with proper guidance , they could be overcome and a lot of the problems between the government and the institutions arise because of lack of communication and knowledge . He said that he would initiate the State level steering adhoc committee at the earliest , much to the appreciation of all those present at the event .

He also said that the Aranhas had already initiated such a move by starting K12schoolsindia , an organization established to provide authentic and accurate information accessible to all . This website holds an archive of information like Government Resolutions and circulars translated into english , Prominent court judgement and orders , Acts and bills and various other material beneficial not only to those in the field of education but also to the public at large .

The event was a huge success and was brought to a close by the vote of thanks given by Mr. Marlon Rego who rightly pointed out that the proceedings had brought a lot of peace of mind to those who attended and had many of their doubts clarified .