

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 714  
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

**Definition of Minorities**

714. SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the definition of Minority, under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992, based on which a community is notified as a Minority by Central/State Government;

(b) what is the minimum percentage of population required to be covered under the category of minorities as defined, the details thereof;

(c) the States where Muslims are given the status of minority community with percentage of Hindu and Muslim population; and

(d) the States where Hindus are given the status of minority community with percentage of Hindu and Muslim population and what is the justification for grant of Minority status?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): As per Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992, “minority” means a community notified as such by the Central Government. At present, six communities i.e. Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains have been notified as “Minority” community. The minimum percentage of population required to be covered under the category of minorities is not defined in the NCM Act, 1992. The Central Government notifies a community as minority in the context of India as a whole, and not for individual State. National Commission for Minorities has not reported any central repository of information on percentages of population of communities.

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