

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5412
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28-03-2018**

Independent Religion Status to Lingayat Community

5412. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any representation from the Government of Karnataka for granting separate/independent religion status to Lingayat community in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to consider the said proposal from the State of Karnataka; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the separate/independent religion status to the Lingayat community of the State is likely to be granted?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

(a) to (d): This Ministry has so far not received any representation from the Government of Karnataka for granting of separate/independent religion status to the Lingayat Community in the State. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs had communicated the comments dated 14.11.2013 of Registrar General of India (RGI) to the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) that Veerashaiva Lingayat is a Sect of Hindus and not an independent religion and that RGI did not assign a separate code to Veerashaiva Lingayat during Census-2011. It also stated that if Veerashaiva Lingayat is treated as a separate religion by providing a separate code other than Hindu, all scheduled Castes (SCs) professing the Veerashaiva Lingayat Sect will lose their constitutional status. However, this Ministry has recently received a proposal of Karnataka Govt. on 26.03.2018 regarding recognition of Lingayat as a religious minority.
