

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3460
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08-08-2018**

Functioning of Churches

3460. SHRI R.P. MARUTHARAJAA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of churches functioning in the country as on date, church-wise and State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b)) whether the Government has any criteria/policy with regard to starting new churches in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints on any issue from churches in the country, if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) The Constitution of India provides Right to Freedom of practice and propagation of religion. This Ministry does not maintain information on the number of churches functioning in India
- (c) Complaints/grievances from different religious communities/groups/ individual on various issues including churches are received in this Ministry and National Commission for Minorities (NCM) etc. on which appropriate action as per provision are taken.