

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 825
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

825. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to empower the National Commission for Minorities established in the year 1992;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the challenges faced in this respect;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make it a constitutional body; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was set up as a statutory body through the NCM Act, 1992 and is sufficiently empowered to carry out its mandate. As per Section 9(1) of the NCM Act, 1992, the Commission is empowered to act as below:-

- (i) evaluate the progress of the development of Minorities under the Union and States;
- (ii) monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures;
- (iii) make recommendations for the effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of Minorities by the Central Government or the State Governments;
- (iv) look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of Minorities and take up such matters with the appropriate authorities;
- (v) cause studies to be undertaken into the problems arising out of any discrimination against Minorities and recommend measures for their removal;

- (vi) conduct studies, research and analysis on the issues relating to socio-economic and educational development of Minorities;
- (vii) suggest appropriate measures in respect of any Minority to be undertaken by the Central Government or the State Governments;
- (viii) make periodical or special reports to the Central Government on any matter pertaining to Minorities and in particular difficulties confronted by them; and
- (ix) any other matter, which may be referred to it by the Central Government

Further, as per Section 9 (4) of the NCM Act, the Commission while performing any of the functions listed in (i), (ii) & (iv) above, has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and, in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:-

- (i) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
- (ii) requiring the discovery and production of any document;
- (iii) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (iv) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- (v) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
- (vi) any other matter which may be prescribed

The commission has been functioning satisfactorily and sufficient funds have been provided to it. Therefore, there is no proposal to make it a constitutional body.
