

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1079
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

MARRIAGE AND SUCCESSION ACT FOR BUDDHISM

1079. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps being considered/ taken by the Government to address the long-standing demand of Buddhists for specific Marriage and Succession Act;
- (b) whether Article 25(2)(b) of the Indian Constitution grant Buddhists the status of a separate religion, in alignment with the recommendations of Justice MN Venkatachaliah Commission and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the initiatives taken to address the concerns of the Neo Buddhist community, particularly in relation to their classification under Hindu personal laws and the absence of specific legal provisions for marriage and succession; and
- (d) whether the Government could share its perspective on the potential benefits and implications of amending Article 25(2)(b) of the Constitution to recognize Buddhism as a separate religion for Neo Buddhists and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): A representation from the Buddhist community in respect of Buddhist Personal Law was received by National Commission for Minorities (NCM) and forwarded to the Ministry of Law & Justice.

Further, the office of Registrar General of India has informed that in the decennial population Census, religion-wise population are enumerated and published. Buddhist is published as an independent religion which is not classified under Hindu. In 2011 Census, Neo Buddhist was tabulated as a sect under Buddhist religion.
