

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-†711
ANSWERED ON – 04/02/2026

DETERMINATION OF MINORITY COMMUNITY

†711. SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the definition of minority;
- (b) the details of the law under which the definition of minority has been determined by the Government;
- (c) the religion/faith/sects denomination or castes of people included in the minority community of the country;
- (d) the details of the population of minority communities in the country, religion/faith/sects/denomination/caste and district-wise;
- (e) whether there is significant change in the population figures of minority communities in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, religion/faith/sects/denomination/caste and district-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJIU)

(a) to (c) As per section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act 1992, "Minority" for the purpose of this act, means a community notified as such by the Central Government. The Government of India has notified six communities i.e. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains as minority communities.

(d) to (f) The term "Minority" is not identified in Population Census. However, in Census, the data on religions professed by the people of India are collected, tabulated, and published. The Census 2011 and 2001 data on religion are published in "**Table C-01: Population by religious community**", which is available online (downloadable form) on the Census of India website <https://censusindia.gov.in> and the detail link is as under: <https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/data/census-tables> → Select Census Year (i.e., 2011 or 2001) → Table Series → Religion → **Table C-01: Population by religious community** → Select State /District.
