

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:679

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

NATIONAL MINORITY STATUS TO COMMUNITIES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao; Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo; Ganeshamurthi Shri A.; Tagore Shri Manicka; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the criteria adopted by the Government to provide national minority status to a particular community;
- (b) the number of communities at present recognized as national minority status; (
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give minority status to Jain community and some other communities also;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (VINCENT H. PALA)

- (a) :Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 defines "minority" as:"minority, for the purpose of this Act, means a community notified as such by the Central Government".
- (b) :Under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act,1992, five communities viz Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as Minority Communities.
- (c) to (e): The issue of minority status to "Jain" community is at present subjudice.