

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:60
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011
EMPOWERMENT OF NCM
Biju Shri P. K.

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Commission for Minorities is facing functional difficulties in the absence of a constitutional status;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to empower the said Commission for carrying out inquiries and monitoring of all issues in safeguarding the interests of the minorities?

Answer

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 60 raised by Shri P.K. Biju to be answered on 24.11.2011.

(a) & (b): National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has provisions to function effectively within its given mandate as per the NCM Act,1992.

(c): The National Common Minimum Programme provided for examination of the question of providing constitutional status to NCM. Accordingly, the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill, 2004 and National Commission for Minorities (Repeal) Bill, 2004 were introduced in Lok Sabha on 23.12.2004. Notices for moving official amendments to the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill, 2004 and for consideration and passing of these Bills were last given to the Lok Sabha on 5.2.2009. However, with the dissolution of 14th Lok Sabha, these notices could not be taken up and both these Bills together with the official amendments lapsed. In the meanwhile, alternative view regarding empowering NCM has been received in the Ministry of Minority Affairs.