

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3476
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011
CHRISTIANS IN LADAKH REGION
Khan Shri Hassan

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Christians are the smallest community in Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir State:
- (b) if so, the total number of Christian families residing in Ladakh; and
- (c) the benefits provided to them and their institutions under minority welfare schemes including representation in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

a): Yes, Madam.

b): The Census 2001 Report does not have the exact number of Christian families in Ladakh. However, the total Christian population in Jammu and Kashmir is 20,299 as per the Census data 2001, which is 0.2% of the total population.

c): All schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, which include Scholarship Schemes, Free Coaching, Multi sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) and Computerization of Waqf records are being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. Leh/ Ladakh has been identified as one of the 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) on the basis of population and backwardness parameters for implementation of MsDP. All Minority communities including Christians in Ladakh are benefited from the above schemes of the Ministry.