

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:266
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012
CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS TO NMC
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the National Commission for Minorities (NMC) 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 issues in the interests of the Minorities?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Madam.
- (b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.
- (c) The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a statutory organization constituted under NCM Act, 1992. Under section 9(4) of this Act, it has power of a civil court for summoning and examining witnesses under oath etc. Under section 9(1)(d), the Commission is empowered to look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the minorities and take up such matters with the appropriate authorities. Further, under section 9(1)(b) & 9(1)(c) it has powers to monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the constitution and in laws enacted by the Parliament and the State Legislatures and make recommendations for the effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interest of minorities by the Central Government or the State Governments.