

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:169  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION  
Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed

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

- (a) whether the structure and functions of the Equal Opportunity Commission have been finalised and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the present status of the Equal Opportunity Commission Bill;
- (c) whether the comments of the various stakeholders have been received and suitably incorporated in the draft Bill;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the aforesaid Bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS(SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 169 FOR 23.8.2012, RAISED BY SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER REGARDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION.

(a) to (d) : As a follow up of the Sachar Committee recommendation for setting up of an Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) to look into the grievances of the deprived groups, the Government constituted an Expert Group to recommend the structure, scope and functions along with advice on an appropriate Legislative Framework of the proposed Equal Opportunity Commission. The Expert Group consulted a number of Institutions, stakeholders and experts across the country and after taking on board their views, submitted their report to the Government. The Expert Group also submitted a Draft Bill. The report of the Expert Group was examined and a Draft Note for Cabinet for setting up of an Equal Opportunity Commission was circulated to the Ministries/Departments for comments. The Cabinet while considering the Draft Bill on EOC, constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to examine all issues relating to setting up of an EOC including those relating to its jurisdiction. The GOM has since made its recommendations, which were taken into account in preparing the Draft Equal Opportunity Commission Bill, 2011. This Bill was again circulated to various Ministries/Departments concerned and comments of most of the Ministries have been received.

(e): As the comments received need further consultation, some more time will be required for its finalization before its introduction in the Parliament.