

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1653
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
SETTING UP OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up an Equal Opportunity Commission as recommended by the Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many benefits which were to be received by the minority communities have not reached them due to weak monitoring system and corruption; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the monitoring system and also to protect the Wakf properties from encroachment and misuse?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING)

(a) & (b): As a follow up action on the Sachar Committee recommendation for setting up of an Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC), the Government has decided to set up an EOC for the deprived groups belonging to the minority communities notified under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. The draft EOC Bill is under consideration of the Government.

(c) & (d) Benefits envisaged under the various programmes being implemented for the welfare of minorities are reaching the target groups. With a view to ensure this, the progress in implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities, is monitored and reviewed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs with the Nodal Officers of the concerned Ministries/Departments on a quarterly basis. Further, the progress is monitored by the Committee of Secretaries on half yearly basis and then reported to the Union Cabinet. At the State level, States/UTs have been advised to constitute State-level and District-level committees for monitoring of the said Programme.

As regards protection of Wakf properties, the Govt. is implementing scheme for Computerization of records of State Wakf Boards, under which financial assistance is provided to State/UT Wakf Boards for streamlining record-keeping, digitalization and preservation of Wakf records to ensure their safety. Besides, as per Sec. 32 of the Wakf Act, 1995, it is the duty of the Wakf Board of the State/UT concerned, to exercise its powers to ensure that the Wakf properties are properly maintained, controlled, administered and not encroached, while Sec. 54 provides for removal of encroachment from Wakf properties with the help of the State Government/UT concerned.