

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3187
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
MINORITY STATUS TO COMMUNITIES
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for according the status of minority to a community in the country;
- (b) the name of communities in the States to whom the minority status has been accorded; (C) whether any community enjoying the status of minority has been excluded from the minority status; and
- (d) if so the details thereof and reason therefor?

Answer

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

(a) The Constitution of India used the word 'minorities' or its plural form in the Articles 29 to 30 and 350 A to 350 B- But does not define it anywhere. Article 29 has the word "minorities" in its marginal heading but speaks of "any section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture". This may be a whole community generally seen as a minority or group within a majority community. Article 30 speaks specifically of two categories of minorities- religious and linguistic. The remaining two articles – 350 A & 350 B relate to linguistic minorities only.

(b) As per clause (c) of Section 2 of the National Commission for Minorities Act. 1992, five communities vide Ministry of Welfare notification dated 23rd October, 1993 are declared as minority communities viz- Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis). However, 14 states have declared Jains as minorities within the jurisdiction of their respective states.

(c) & (d) No, Sir.