

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:919
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AT PROTECTED MONUMENTS
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Commission for Minorities has recommended that religious practices may be allowed at the religious monuments which are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and where such practices are presently prohibited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Cabinet Committee on National Security and Intelligence has recommended that such practices may not be allowed in the protected monuments in view of the security threat and that it may lead to a spate of such requests from other groups/organisations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the rationale behind the recommendations of the National Commission for Minorities in the light of the above recommendations; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE
(SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities has approached the then Hon'ble Minister of Culture vide letter dated 30.7.2012 to review the status of mosques in Delhi.
- (b) The matter was first examined by the Central Coordination Committee at a special meeting held on 8.6.1979 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Tourism with Education Minister, among others, as its members, and it was decided not to allow revival of worship at monuments which are not in religious use. Again, the Cabinet Committee on National Security and Intelligence at its meeting held on 4.7.1983 considered the matter regarding the religious use of centrally protected mosques and decided that the practice followed hitherto of not allowing revival of religious use in a protected monument (if such a use was not in vogue at the time of protection or had discontinued since long) should continue. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) in its meeting held in 2009 had taken a decision not to permit prayers/worship in the centrally protected monuments where such practice was not in vogue at the time of bringing them under the protection.
- (c) to (e) Yes, Madam. The Cabinet Committee on National Security and Intelligence at its meeting held on 4.7.1983 considered the matter regarding the religious use of centrally protected mosques and decided that the practice followed hitherto of not allowing revival of religious use in a protected monument (if such a use was not in vogue at the time of protection or had discontinued since long) should continue.