

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6517
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
MINORITY STATUS
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of ethnic minorities whose population is less than 1 lakh in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to confer minority status on such ethnic minorities; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that their number does not dwindle further?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

(a) to (c) This Ministry notifies religious minorities as minority communities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. As on date, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians(Parsis) and Jains have been notified as minority communities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. As per Census 2001, the population of these communities was as under:

Religion Number

Muslims	138,188,240
Christians	24,080,016
Sikhs	19,215,730
Buddhists	7,955,207
Jains	4,225,053
Zoroastrians	69,001
(Parsis)	

Religion-wise data of Census 2011 have not yet been released. There is no proposal under consideration in this Ministry to confer minority status to ethnic minorities.

For containing the population decline of the Parsi community, a Central Sector Scheme 'Jiyo Parsi' was launched during 2013-14. The objective of this scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions to stabilize their population and balance their population in India. An amount of Rs.40.82 lakh and Rs.50.00 lakh has been released during 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively for Medical, Advocacy & Outreach component.