

**ACTION TAKEN MEMORANDUM ON THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN THE 10TH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 2002 TO 2003.**

Chapter-13 Para No. 13.2 Page No.57

2. RECOMMENDATION

There should be an Investigation Agency attached with the NCM as well as with the State Minorities Commission as has been provided to the National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for SCs/STs.

ACTION TAKEN

This is being considered in the context of giving constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities.

In so far as the State Minorities Commissions are concerned, the recommendation has been forwarded to all State Government Administrations for taking appropriate action and tabling an Action Taken memorandum in the state legislature in accordance with Section 9(3) of the NCM Act.

Chapter-13 Para No. 13.3

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Ministry of Home Affairs may be requested to send an advisory note to all the Departments of Government of India and the State Governments to give due attention to the recommendations made by the NCM as well as the State Minorities Commissions and implement their recommendations effectively. In case, it is not feasible to accept any recommendation suitable replies may be sent to the respective Commissions. (Chapter 3, para-3.5)

ACTION TAKEN

All the Departments of Government of India and the State Governments are being advised from time to time to give due attention to the recommendations made by the NCM.

In addition, in accordance with Section 9(3) of the NCM Act, 1992 the recommendation has been forwarded to all State Governments, for taking appropriate action and tabling an Action Taken Memorandum in the state legislature in this regard.

Chapter-13 Para No. 13.4

4. RECOMMENDATION

Due representation of Minority communities in the police forces of the Union and State Governments may be given. Police officers from minority communities may be deployed in sensitive areas.

ACTION TAKEN

There is no reservation for minorities in the police forces of the Union and State Governments.

Central paramilitary forces have been advised to ensure sufficient representation to minorities by making minority community candidates aware of the employment opportunities/recruitment programme and the incentives/prospects available in these forces. Recruitment Boards have also been advised to

send special information to the minority community run institutions/organizations with a request to encourage candidates from these communities to apply for recruitment in Central Para-military forces.

State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised that the state police should represent the social structure in their respective States so that the state police forces retain their secular character. Since recruitment of police personnel is within the purview of State Governments/UTs, instructions have also been issued to include representatives belonging to minorities in the selection committees.

Deployment of officers in sensitive areas depends upon the exigencies of the situation and operational procedure of the force concerned.

Chapter-13 Para No. 13.5

5. RECOMMENDATION

The differences between the majority and minority communities may be narrowed down by dialogue. In the process of dialogue, the religious leaders and intellectuals of all communities may be invited for short-listing the issues to remove the irritants. The religious leaders of all the communities may refrain from making provocative statements on sensitive issues. They may utilize the forum of NCM to resolve dispute on particular issues. (Chapter 3, Para 3.5)

ACTION TAKEN

The Central Government issues advisories from time to time to the State Governments asking them to take steps to ensure that peace and communal harmony are maintained.

Chapter-13 Para No. 13.6

6. RECOMMENDATION

The Government of India may take special steps for helping minorities in the Minority Concentration Districts. So far only 44 districts have been earmarked as per the 1981 Census. After the release of the latest data on various religions by the census authorities, this figure is likely to increase. Special steps in the Minority Concentration Districts may be taken for implementation of the 15-Point Programme of Prime-Minister.

ACTION TAKEN

Government is in process of revising the list of Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) on the basis of Census, 2001.

Further, the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, amended recently, focuses on enhancing opportunities for education, an equitable share in economic activities and employment and improving the condition of living of minorities and provides for earmarking, wherever possible, targets and outlay of at least 15% of funds for minorities in the schemes included in the programme.

Chapter-13 Para No. 13.7

7. RECOMMENDATION

The Government of India may raise the existing limit of loans being given to the minority communities and may also impress upon the State Governments to reactivate the Margin Money Scheme of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation through RBI and nationalized banks.

ACTION TAKEN

The Government has constituted an Expert Committee to suggest an action plan for improving the strategy and operational performance of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

Chapter-13 Para No. 13.9

9. RECOMMENDATION

Kirpan being a religious mandate and sanctity for the Sikhs, Sikh passengers be allowed to carry 9” Kirpan in the domestic flights.

ACTION TAKEN

It has been decided that Kirpan may be carried under the following conditions:-

- (i) Kirpan may be carried only by a Sikh passenger, on his person, provided the length of its blade does not exceed 15.24 cms (6 inches); and the total length of a Kirpan does not exceed 22.86 cms (9 inches);
- (ii) It is allowed while traveling by air on Indian aircraft within India; and
- (iii) Kirpan is allowed only on domestic routes of fully domestic flights.