

Record Note of the 7th Meeting-(2024-25) of the National Commission for Minorities held on 16th October, 2024

1. 7th Meeting-(2024-25) of the National Commission for Minorities was held at 11:30A.M on 16th October, 2024 in the Chamber of Hon'ble Chairman in the presence of the following:-
 - i. Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairman
 - ii. Shri Kersi K. Deboo, Vice Chairman
 - iii. Ms. Syed Shahezadi Member
 - iv. Ms. Rinchen Lhamo, Member
 - v. Shri Dhanyakumar Jinappa Gunde, Member
2. Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary assisted the Commission and in attendance were Shri D.E. Richards, Joint Secretary; Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Deputy Secretary, Shri Rajeev Mohan, Under Secretary and Shri Miraj A.Khan, Legal Consultant.
3. **Agenda Item No.1: Confirmation of the record notes of the 6th Meeting of the Commission held on 11.09.2024**
The record notes of the meeting were confirmed.
4. **Agenda Item No.2: Action Taken Report on Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the NCM Commission circulated on 19.09.2024.**
The Action taken report as below was noted:-

s.no	Action point	Comments on ATR
1	Internship in NCM	Guidelines have been issued
2	Introduction of retired Government Official	Advertisement published, applications are being received. The Secretariat should simultaneously start screening of the applications
3	Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2024	Lunch with cleaning and MTS Staff- scheduled for 24 th October, 2024
4	SoP dealing with petitions in NCM	File is under consideration for modifications. May be put up in 10 days.
5	Creation of Digital Platform for NCM	Chairman desired to have a meeting on this issue on 24 th October with an educationist from Pune

6	Tour report of Member, Sri Gunde with respect to Dharwad etc	DO draft to Minority welfare department in respect of recommendation no 3 be put up again
7	Tour report of Member, Ms Lhamo with respect to Puri etc	Status of recommendation no 5 and a letter in response to recommendation no 8 be put up
8	Preparation for Guru Nanak Birthday	Chairman desired that existing invitation cards (25 nos.) be provided to each Members and additional cards be printed for distribution. Section Officer of NCM may be appointed for the function as Nodal Officer.

5. Agenda Item No.3: Tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, to Ropar (Punjab), Chandigarh from 19th July, 2024 to 21st July, 2024.

i. The recommendations were approved as follows:-

Recommendation No. 1:- NCM may take up for declaration of Shaheedi Diwas - 24th November, Martyrdom day of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib ji as a Gazetted Holiday.

Recommendation No. 2 – State Government of Punjab may consider inviting multi-national companies to enhance youth empowerment through training and mentorship which would provide job opportunities for the youth. State may also provide for proportionate representation of the minorities under recently launched PM internship programme and apprenticeship programmes

Recommendation No.3 – State Government to consider starting a State funded coaching and career development programme for improving representation of minorities in public services including All India Service, Defence and paramilitary services.

Recommendation No.4 –State Government to consider more intensive information dissemination of the Minorities Scheme and Skill Development

Programme, particularly in the rural areas. An Advisory may be sent to all the State Governments and UTs.

Recommendation No 5 – The State Government of Punjab may be informed about the challenges of illegal religious conversion in Punjab and to take steps to address any illegal & deceitful conversions.

Recommendation No 6 – The National Council Of Education Research and Training may be invited for making a presentation on inclusion of history and contribution of Sikh Gurus and warriors in the school education and NCF. Similarly, the State Government of Punjab agencies also be called for such a presentation

- ii. The following directions for further action by the NCM Secretariat for follow up action were approved:-
 - b. Further study on the status of for a Sikh Development Board and Sikh Bachpan School in rural area and. to check the status regarding it from Sikh Education Board of Punjab.
 - c. A note be put up for writing to the Central Govt. for declaration of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji as a Gazetted Holiday.
 - d. Letter to go to Ministry of Corporate Affairs to include provision for Minorities in their schemes.
 - e. Letters should be written to the State and the Central Government for the above recommendations appropriately.

6. **Agenda Item No.4: Tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, to Chandigarh (UT), District Ropar, Punjab from 1st September, 2024 to 3rd September,2024.**

The recommendations were approved as follows:-

Recommendation No.1:- NCM may take report from the concerned authority regarding subsidy as per petition of Shri Arnus Masih. It was noted that Chairman had written to concerned authorities regarding shifting of Minorities office. The Secretariat may also put up a report on placing the annual/ periodical data report on the subject matter.

Recommendation No.2 – Petitions containing specific request would be forwarded to the concerned authority for further necessary action

7. Agenda Item No.5: Tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, to District Patiala, Punjab on 6th September, 2024

The recommendations were approved as follows:-

Recommendation No.1:- NCM noted the letter written by the Chairman to the Chief Minister of Punjab on Dharmi Fauji issue as per the 'Rajeev-Longowal Accord'. It was further decided to write to the Central Provident Fund Commissioner regarding resolution of their higher pension issues and also to write to the Defence Minister for restoration of health and canteen benefits.

Recommendation No.2:- Part action would be covered under Recommendation no 5 of Agenda no 3. On migration of youth and nature of media further study needs to be undertaken before the Commission makes any concrete recommendations.

Recommendation No.3:- The value addition in agricultural produce through Food processing is a desirable need. The steps on skilling, knowledge and technology transfer for food processing needs to be undertaken both by the Central and the State Government. It was decided to write to State Government of Punjab. It was also decided to write to M/o Information and Broadcasting for addressing the issues through focused media campaign.

Recommendation No.4:- There is a need to undertake more consultation with the Sikh intelligentsia and Youth, towards this a mechanism also should be formulated.

Recommendation No.5:- Need for focussed media campaign against misinformation and addressing the issue of correct image/ role modelling for Sikh Youths, the State Government may be asked to present an approach/strategy/ action plan on this.

8. Agenda Item No.6: Tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman to Amritsar (Punjab) and Chandigarh (UT) from 20th September, 2024 to 23rd September, 2024.

Recommendation No. 1- It was decided to write to the Chief Minister, Punjab regarding change of name of Lawrence Road to Maharaja Ranjit Singh Road, Amritsar.

9. **Agenda Item No.7: Tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman, to Rajkot, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) from 4th October, 2024 to 5th October, 2024**

The recommendations were approved with the directions that a letter may be issued to the Chief Secretary, Gujarat as follows:-

Recommendation No.1:- It was decided to further study the issue of the Sikh Development Board as in earlier agenda 1.

Recommendation No.2:- It was directed to seek the report on establishment of the Punjabi Sahitya Academy in Gujarat.

Recommendation No.3:- It was directed to seek the report from the State Government of Gujarat on teaching of Punjabi Language in the State.

Recommendation No.4:- It was directed to write to the State Government of Gujarat on facilitating decisions on allotment of land for Gurudwara/ Community Hall for minorities.

10. **Agenda Item No.8: Tour report of Shri Kersi K Deboo, Vice Chairman to District Alwar, Rajasthan from 25th August, 2024 to 26th August, 2024.**

Recommendation No.1:- It was decided to write to the State Govt of Rajasthan and the Chairman, State Minority Commission, Rajasthan for running a special campaign to promote the minority schemes in the District Alwar so that it can reach to the maximum number of minority population.

11. **Agenda Item No.9: Tour report of Shri Kersi K Deboo, Vice Chairman to District Jaipur, Rajasthan from 20th September, 2024 to 22nd August, 2024.**

The following recommendations were approved:-

Recommendation No.1:- The MoMA may consider the issue of opening the scholarship portal for the students and take necessary action for early resolution of the matter.

Recommendation No.2 :- The MoMA may undertake review to complete the works and release the funds under the PMJVK Scheme in Rajasthan. It is necessary for early completion and payment of liabilities.

Recommendation No.3 :- The petition received from Sri Abdul Lateef Aarko, Secretary Mill Council Rajasthan should be examined on the file and thereafter, sent to the Chief Secretary, Rajasthan.

Recommendation No.4 :- The petition received on donning of articles of faith including Kada/Kripan during exam needs to be addressed. A detailed letter and advisory may be sent to all the States again including the Central agencies that undertake various exams.

Recommendation No.5 :- The issue of Jain Saints safety, stay and walking trail as safeguard measures during Viharas needs to be addressed. Towards it, an advisory with the recommendations of the Commission may be issued to all the States.

12. Agenda Item No.10: Tour Report of Ms. Syed Shahezadi, Member to Hyderabad, Telangana from 13 th September, 2024 to 19th September, 2024.

Recommendation No.1:- It was decided to write to the M/o Railways regarding provisioning for a stoppage at BB Nagar station for local trains to facilitate better and faster commute for patients going to AIIMS Hospital, Hyderabad.

Recommendation No. 2 & 3:- It was decided to initially have discussion with MoMA to understand the issues relating to Haj Pilgrims i.e – need for more pick-up stations in Telangana, to have a helper over every 50 pilgrims/ to keep all Indian Hajjis at one place in Dubai/ stay facility may be fixed by Gol.

13. Agenda Item No.11: Tour Report of Ms. Syed Shahezadi, Member to Shimla, Himachal Pradesh from 3rd October, 2024 to 6th October, 2024.

It was decided to write to the State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh on the following recommendations:-

Recommendation No.1:- Filling up of vacant posts of Urdu Language Teachers by the State Government.

Recommendation No.2:- To see the status of CM overseas minority scholarship for the students of the Himachal Pradesh and take necessary action.

14. **Agenda Item No.12: Tour report of Ms. Rinchen Lhamo, Member to Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from 25th September, 2024 to 27th September, 2024.**

Recommendation No.1 was approved. It was decided to write to the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh to start the Mess facility for the Minority Girls Hostels in the State.

15. **Agenda Item No.13: Tour report of Ms. Rinchen Lhamo, Member to Dehradun, Uttarakhand from 2nd October, 2024 to 4th October, 2024.**

The tour report was duly noted by the Commission and no recommendations were made.

16. **Agenda Item No.14: Tour report of Shri Dhanyakumar Jinappa Gunde, Member, National Commission for Minorities to Maharashtra, Daman and Karnataka during 14th Spetember,2024 to 25th September, 2024.**

The following recommendations were made:-

Recommendation No.1:- It was decided to write to the State Govt. of Maharashtra for the following issues:-

- For starting a sensitization programme of the Government Officers regarding minority focused schemes, promotion and implementation.
- To ensure quarterly review meeting at each district by the DM and the report is to be submitted to the State Minority Department
- The Annual Report of the Minority Welfare Department should have the district wise progress and which should be put in the public domain.
- District Minority Officer should furnish Annual Report on Minorities to the State Govt.
- The process of revision of income slabs should be periodic, streamlined so that EWS categories can be benefitted.
- Education in the State Government Institutions should have affirmative steps for sponsoring minority education

Recommendation No.2 :- It was decided to write to the UT Govt. of Daman, Diu, Dadar and Nagar Haveli for the following issues:-

- The process of revision of income slabs for availing minority schemes should be periodic, streamlined so that EWS categories can be benefitted.
- Need for community halls in the Minority population concentrated areas of the UT.
- To consider establishing the UT Minority Commission.

- To create awareness about minority schemes in the educational Institutions for greater outreach and increasing the access.
- To ensure quarterly review meeting at each district by the DM and the report is to be submitted to the State Minority Department

Recommendation No.3:- It was decided to issue a recommendation advisory on basic amenities at the religious places to all the Chief Secretaries. Towards this, provision of washroom facilities, proper approach road, drinking water and rest facilities etc. should be considered. A small consultation may be undertaken by the Commission before the guidelines are finalised.

Recommendation No.4:- It was decided to write to the Govt. of Karnataka for the following issues:-

- Financial assistance for the purpose of basic amenities like compound wall, approach road, drinking water, electricity etc. for Jinalayas.
- Differential rate of interest/ subsidy for minority population for EWS housing and micro business through interest subvention.
- To maintain sanctity of cooking vegetarian food in the hostels.

Recommendation No.5:- It was decided to undertake proper examination of the issue of establishing Jain and Buddhist Development Board as in earlier Agenda

17. Agenda Item No.15: Tour report of Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Hon'ble Chairman to Districts Bodhgaya, Patna (Bihar) from 30th September,2024 to 1st October,2024.

It was decided to write to the Chief Minister of Bihar on the following issues:-

Recommendation No1:-To study the archival details of debates on the 1949 Mahabodhi Temple Management Act and make a report for necessary recommendation to facilitate that Buddhists manage the temple.

Recommendation No.2:- Implementation of the Anand Marriage Act in the State: teaching of the Punjabi language; minority certificate issuances; representation in the State Government jobs; removing unlawfully encroached and captured property and land of the Sikhs; rehabilitation, compensation and justice to 1984 Sikh riot victims; and the Issue of the Sri Patna Sahab Gurudwara.

Recommendation No 3 :- Restoration of Gurudwara Gaya to the Sikh community as Guru Nanak Dev Ji visited this place and Baba Sri Chandji, the son of Guru Nanak Dev Ji also visited it.

18. Agenda Item No.16: Pendency Status on CMS portal from 05.09.2024 to 08.10.2024.

The Pendency Status on CMS portal from 05.09.2024 to 08.10.2024 was noted and commended by the Commission.

It was reported to the Commission that a VC meeting with Uttarakhand was held on 08.10.2024. It was decided to have simultaneous VC meeting with two States having more than 50 reports pending over 3 months' period, in the future.

19. Agenda Item No.17: Status of CPGRAM Grievances till 08.10.2024.

Status of CPGRAM Grievances till 08.10.2024 was noted and was found to be satisfactory by the Commission.

20. Supplementary Agenda containing six items were also tabled after the permission of the Chair.

21. Supplementary Agenda -I (Agenda Item No.1): Tour Report of Ms. Syed Shahezadi, Member to Hyderabad, Telangana from 9th October, 2024 to 13th October, 2024.

The tour report was noted by the Commission and no recommendations were required

22. Supplementary Agenda -I (Agenda Item No.2): Tour report of Shri Dhanyakumar Jinappa Gunde, Member, National Commission for Minorities to Sawai Madhopur, Bundi & Kota (Rajasthan) form 6th October, 2024 to 8th October, 2024.

Recommendation No.1- It was linked with the recommendation no 5 of the Agenda 10 and also was linked with recommendation 3 of the agenda no 14.

Recommendation No.2 - To write to the Ministry of Culture for preservation and promotion of the Prakrit Language and to further examine the issue of the specific Language Board for Prakrit. It may also provide funds for research, development and preservation of Prakrit Language and establishment of a Central University for Prakrit Language.

Recommendation No.3 It was decided to write to the State Government of Rajasthan for the following issues:-

- Financial and Administrative Assistance for the Construction of Langar Hall and kitchen for the Sikh Community at the Kota Gurudwara.
- Introduction of courses in the field of Prakrit Language for award of degrees at graduate, post graduate and doctoral level at the Kota University.
- Provision of financial and Administrative sanctions for Gurudwara Agamgarh Sahib.

23. Supplementary Agenda-II Item No.1: VC Meeting held by Secretary, National Commission with State Government officials of Uttarakhand.

The work done for VC meeting on 08.10.2024 with Uttarakhand Government Officials regarding issues pertaining to the State was appreciated by the Chairman. It was also decided to apprise the Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the issue of Gurudwara Gyan Godri giving full details of the case. It was informed that a follow up VC meeting was scheduled for 18.10.2024.

24. Supplementary Agenda II - Item No.2: Terms of Reference of Core Group on Awareness.

Terms of Reference of Core Group on Awareness for minority was approved with some additions as given in Annexure-I.

25. Supplementary Agenda II - Item No.3: NCM's work done during month of September, 2024

The progress of the work done was noted by the Commission

26. Supplementary Agenda -II Item No.4: Hiring Event Management Agency.

The proposal for hiring an Event Management Agency for handling all works related to NCM events and meetings was approved.

27. Any other item- Chairman directed that recording of meetings with the Minority communities held in NCM may be done.

28. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

National Commission for Minorities

Subject: Terms of Reference of Core Group on Awareness

The proposal for formation of Core Group in NCM on the lines of Core Groups in NHRC on various topics was approved in the NCM Sixth meeting held on 11.09.2024.

2. The Core Group would deliberate on key issues pertaining to the Minority communities and offer their suggestions and advice for improvement of the conditions of the Minorities. The strength of the Core Group could vary from minimum of 6 to maximum of 10 subject to final decision of the Chairman.

3. The “Core Group on increasing awareness of Government Schemes and Facilities for the Minority Communities”, was one such approved group. The representatives would be from NGOs working in minority sector, academicians, print and publication experts and those working in dissemination of information. The Hon’ble Chairman and Members would suggest the names for the group.

4. **Composition**

The Core Group would comprise members from the areas in para 3 above and have representation from the Minority communities including representative from Press Information Bureau (PIB). Membership of the Core Group would be amenable to change at the discretion of the Chairman NCM.

5. **Term**

Term of the Core Group would be for a period of 1 year. Renewal of term would be at the discretion of the Chairman, NCM.

6. **Terms of Reference (ToR)**

- I. To examine the existing activities of the Government for publicity and awareness of the Government Schemes and facilities for the Minority communities.

- II. To examine the existing best practices for awareness generation in other Ministries/Departments/State Governments relating to other Schemes and suggest measures for adoption/replication of such practices for the Minority related Schemes.
- III. To assist the Commission to make recommendations to the concerned authorities for effective implementation and or make revision/amendment of existing practices for awareness generation of Government Schemes and facilities amongst the Minority community.
- IV. To suggest steps to combat anti-minority social media content.
- V. To recommend Annual Action Plan for dissemination of information about Minority related schemes.

7. **Frequency of Meetings**

The Core Group will meet as and when deemed necessary by the Chairperson with maximum 5-6 meetings in a year. The meetings may be held in physical or virtual mode.

8. The payment of TA/DA will be as per the OM dated 14.09.2017 of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure on the subject of TA/DA entitlements of Non-Officials of Committees/Boards/Panels etc.
