

CHAPTER – 12

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. State Minorities Commissions should necessarily be set up in the States where they do not exist. In the States where the State Minorities Commissions already exist, there is no uniformity in their powers, functions, secretarial and other logistic support. The Model Act for State Minorities Commissions prepared by the NCM should be adopted and implemented by State Governments subject to specific requirement of the State.

2. The proposal of IGNOU to set up study centres in minority concentrated districts need to be supported and given wide publicity.

3. The conferment of Constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities is pending since 2004. This should be expedited giving powers to NCM on lines of other Commissions viz. SC Commission, ST Commission, NHRC, Central Information Commission etc. by the Central Government.

4. The prohibition of Communal Violence Bill is pending for consideration by the Central Government for a long time. This should be passed giving rights to the victims of communal violence and fixing accountability on the state and its functionaries, thereby upholding the rights and privilege of the targeted religious minority communities. The Central Government should take necessary steps to have the law passed by the Parliament.

5. The recommendations of the Sachar Committee Report should be implemented fully and in true letter and spirit.

6. Compensation package at par with 1984 anti-sikh riot victims should also be extended to the survivors of communal violence during 1992-1993 in the aftermath of the demolition of Babri Masjid.

7. Enhanced compensation to the 1984 Sikh riot victims announced by the Government of India in 2005 have not been paid in many cases and the matter in all seriousness should be taken up with the concerned authorities.

8. The criteria for identification of minority concentrated districts/towns needs to be looked into and modified, if need be.

9. An independent, permanent and centralized institutional mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the schemes of the Government should be put in place, to assess whether 15% target for minorities is being identified and achieved, both in physical and financial terms.

10. Amendment to the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949 restructuring the composition of the Management Committee, which at present appears to be in conflict with the secular fabric of the Constitution, should be got expedited.

11. Representation of a member belonging to the minority community in selection committees for public appointments etc. should be ensured and made mandatory.

12. Reservation for Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims at par with SCs/STs should be given, as is available to their brethren in Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist and Sikh communities by the Government in all seriousness and all facilities extended. This anomaly has to be rectified.

13. The thrust of the programme of educational advancement of the minorities should be to ensure access to education at all levels and delivery of quality education.

14. Emphasis should be given on vocational and technical courses, opening/capacity building of schools, training of teachers and coaching schemes for minorities. Modernization of Madarasas scheme should be taken up for

speedy implementation, in right earnest. The number of scholarships and amount disbursed under the scholarships schemes should be enhanced.

15. Wakf properties should be protected and developed. A law should be enacted similar to that of Public Premises Act so that eviction from Wakf property is made legally viable.

16. A National Policy for protection and development of minority communities in India should be devised and implemented.

17. Greater awareness of the provisions of the several new schemes introduced by Government for minority welfare is needed.

18. The Government schemes are laudable but they do not reach the concerned minorities and remain locked-up in Government offices. They need to be publicized through all possible ways in all languages, to reach out to those poor for whom they are meant.

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