

(c) the time likely to be taken to apppoint the Deputy Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY):  
(a) to (c) Shri Michael P. Pinto assumed the office of the Vice-Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities on 17th July, 2006.

### **Proposal for reservation to minorities**

†2027. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to give reservation to minorities is under consideration;

(b) if so, by when and the percentage thereof and the names of the departments wherein it is proposed to be given;

(c) if not, the steps being taken by Government for educational and economic development of minorities; and

(d) the details of the outcome of official declaration regarding 20 per cent reservation to minorities in para-military forces?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY):  
(a) to (c) There is no such proposal for reservation for minorities. Government have constituted the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities to suggest *inter-alia* criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, and to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and government employment. Government have recently announced the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities which provides for enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities, improving the conditions of living of the minorities, equitable share for minorities in government employment including public sector, and prevention and control of communal riots.

(d) There is no such official declaration.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.