

1	2	3
		2. Largardih-Balidih Block, Saraikela-Kharswan District
	Iron and Manganese	Area between Kotgarh and Lokesai. West Singhbhum District.
	Rare earths	Dublaberatoli-Sundil area, Ranchi District.
	PGE	Ranrokocha-Janoa-Jojohatu-Tonto area, West Singhbhum District.

Human resources in the Ministry

1795. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is having sufficient human resources to handle the issue of minorities *i.e.* religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities in such a large country; and

(b) if so, how many staff are working in the Ministry and to what extent the modern technological support has been provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Minority Affairs has the working strength of 69 regular officers and staff against the sanctioned strength of 98. Attempts are being made to fill up vacant posts. However, to augment the manpower on need basis, personnel are engaged on contract basis. The computers, printers, fax machines and internet connections have been provided to the officers and staff of the Ministry along with back-up support from NIC.

Judicial power to National Commission for Minorities

†1796. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Commission for Minorities (NCM) does not have judicial powers;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government will provide judicial powers to NCM; and
- (d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING) : (a) and (b) As per the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 under Section 9(4), the Commission while performing any of the functions mentioned in sub-Clauses (a), (b) and (d) of sub-section (I), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit.

(c) to (d) The Commission has sought that police and investigation powers be given to it. This matter is under examination and as the powers sought for will entail consultations and amendments of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, no time-frame can be fixed for completing the exercise.

Eligibility for scholarship

1797. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether poor students of general category are eligible for scholarships for minority communities;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Only students belonging to the notified Minority Communities as per Section 2 (c) of NCM Act, 1992 are eligible for Scholarships.

Availability of sunny days

1798. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of clear sunny days available in the country to tap solar energy; and