

- (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