

**Equal Opportunities Commission**

1862. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to set up an Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its terms of references, aims and objectives;
- (c) the time by which the EOC is likely to be functional; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure adequate representation of Minority communities in Government employment and educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI) : (a) to (d): In pursuance of the Sachar Committee recommendation, the Government had set up an Expert Group to examine and determine, *inter alia*, the structure and functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) to address the grievances of deprived groups. Based on the Expert Group Report and recommendations of Group of Ministers, the draft EOC Bill 2013 for the notified Minorities was approved by the Competent Authority in February, 2014 for placing the Bill before the Parliament. In the meantime, with the formation of the new Government at the Centre in May 2014, this matter needs consultations afresh as per the extant instructions. Divergent views have been received from various Ministries and further examination is needed in consultation with Ministry of Law & Justice.

However, Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, in July 2007, has issued guidelines to all the appointing authorities for giving special consideration to minorities for recruitment in Government, Public Sector Undertakings, etc.

**Holding of meetings on 15-points programme**

†1863. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States and the details of their meetings held on 15-points programme during the last two years; and
- (b) the names of the States where these meetings have not been held in the prescribed time from following the directives of the Central Government?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.