

remitted automatically to the pilgrims account immediately after completion of Haj.

- (xvii) It was decided that intensive training should be imparted to the pilgrims in India. Training should not be only limited to specific period of time for the selected pilgrims but it should be an year long activity for all the intending pilgrims. HCoI should develop comprehensive training modules for the training in consultation with the CGI, Jeddah such as Haj Rituals, Logistics in India and Saudi Arabia, Accommodation and Transport, Mina Movement, Madinah Stay, Personal Health, Air, Travel, Disaster Management, etc. Each Module should be printed in vernacular languages and widely distributed. Short videos and films on ground realities of arrangements in Saudi Arabia may be made and should be available for downloads from the HCoI website and mobile application. A State-wise pool of official deputationists sent on Haj duty in the past may be created, which may be used for training purposes.
- (xviii) On the issue of pilgrims going for on Haj pilgrimage on business visa to Saudi Arabia and getting stranded there it was noted that there is need for generating awareness among the people on a wide scale to prevent them from fraud and cheating by the unscrupulous elements on the name of Haj pilgrimages.
- (xix) On the issue of issuing thousands of complimentary Haj visas (Furada) by the Saudi embassy, MEA was requested to take up this issue with the Saudi Embassy appropriately.

#### **National Commission for Minorities**

3313. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the objective of setting up National Commission for Minorities; and
- (b) the achievement of the Commission during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The Minorities Commission was established in 1978 as a Non-Statutory Body *vide* Home Ministry Notification No. 11-16012/2/77-NID of 12.01.1978. The Government resolution stated as follows:-

- (i) Despite the safeguards provided in the Constitution and the laws in force there persist amongst the Minorities a feeling of inequality and discrimination.

- (ii) In order to preserve secular tradition and to promote national integration, the Government of India attaches the highest importance to the enforcement of the safeguards provided for the Minorities and is of the firm view that effective institutional arrangements are urgently required for the enforcement and implementation of all the safeguards provided for the Minorities in the Constitution in Central and State laws and in Government policies and administrative schemes enunciated from time to time.

On 4th May, 1992, the then Social Welfare Minister introduced in the Lok Sabha a "National Commission for Minorities Bill" accompanied by the following statement of objects and reasons:

"The Minorities Commission with statutory status would infuse confidence among the Minorities about the working and effectiveness of the Commission. It would also carry more weight with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and the Ministries/ departments and other organizations of the Central Government."

The National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 was passed by the Parliament which established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in its current form as a statutory body, on 17th May, 1993.

(b) During the last 3 years, Chairman and Members of the Commission have extensively toured 219 districts in the country in discharge of the functions mandated under the NCM Act, 1992 and interacted with the minority communities and the concerned authorities to evaluate the progress of development of Minorities. Such visits have also afforded opportunities to enhance the awareness of minority communities of various welfare schemes at the grass root level being implemented by the Government for them. The details are available on the website [www.ncm.nic.in](http://www.ncm.nic.in).

#### **Work done for minorities in Goa**

3314. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of work approved under the Ministry and the criteria thereof; and
- (b) the details of work done in Goa and assistance provided in various items of work in the last five years, district-wise?