

Subject: Sanction of suitable sites for burial ground for minority communities

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The National Commission for Minorities had taken up the matter with the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India for allocation of suitable sites for community activity including burial ground for the minorities.

The Ministry of Urban Development vide its letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 has instructed the State Governments/UTs and Municipal authorities to take appropriate steps for allotment of land for burial places. They have also stated that these aspects should be taken into account for future plans.

A copy of the letter may be seen below.

19th May 2011

Sir,

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in terms of its Article 243W empowers the State Governments to endow the municipalities with such powers and authorities which may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self government and provide for devolution of powers and responsibilities in the performance of functions and schemes entrusted to them with respect to the eighteen functions listed in the 12th Schedule. S.No. 14 of the 12th Schedule pertains to 'Burials and burial Grounds: cremations, cremation grounds and electric crematoriums.' It is the responsibility of the ULBs to provide these facilities while taking into consideration the requirements of the various communities. The National Commission for Minorities, Government of India has expressed concern that in many cities and towns in the country, graveyard/cemetery/community hall etc is not adequately available for minorities due to non-sanctioning of suitable sites by the concerned authorities.

It is therefore requested that appropriate steps be taken by the State Governments, Municipal authorities for allotment of land for burial places. These aspects should also find place in future plans. It is requested that details of the action taken by the State Government and present status on the aforesaid matter may kindly be sent to this Ministry urgently.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

Sd/-  
(E.P.Nivedita)

To Urban Development Secretaries of all States & UTs.

Copy to: The Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, Government of India, Lok Nayak Bhawan, (5th Floor), Khan Market, New Delhi - 110003

  
(E.P.Nivedita)  
Director (LSC)