

ACTION MEMORANDUM ON THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MINORITIES COMMISSION FROM 1.4.1988 to 31.3.89

S. No.	Chapter para & page of the report	Text of the Recommendation.	Comments
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	Chapter IX para 9.03 page 119	The Commission strongly felt that values of unity and harmony must be fostered among different groups. All actions of political parties, groups, voluntary organisations and individuals must be judged by one yardstick whether it preserved and strengthened secularism. Anything which negated it or deviated from it, must be firmly opposed. Likewise, such deeds and actions which strengthened secularism should be applauded and given adequate publicity. The Commission firmly believed that religion and politics should be de-linked and that political parties based on religion should be banned in view of the secular character of the country.	These are general remarks of the Commission without any specific recommendations. However, the objectives mentioned are achieved by various laws such as the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Indian Penal Code, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988, Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, etc. The Govt. has recently introduced two Bills in the Parliament - one to amend the Constitution and another to amend the Representation of People Act to separate religion from politics. However, consideration of both these Bills has been deferred. No specific action is therefore, necessary on the recommendation.

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2. Chapter IX para 9.03 page 119 No support or scope should be given to fissiparous tendencies or for such situations which put up one community against the other. In this context, the Commission would reiterate that acts of terrorism must be dealt with sternly because terrorism was a menace which eroded the very basis of national integration. It was necessary to free the minds of the citizens from every type of bias, hatred, fear and prejudice which created barriers between communities or even between individuals.

There was a Central Law, namely, TADA which made special provisions for the prevention of, and for coping with terrorist and disruptive activities and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act was applicable to the whole of India. The State Governments/UTs affected by the problem of terrorism, could make use of the Act to contain it. However, this Act has been allowed to lapse in May, 1995. Religious Places (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 has been enacted to prohibit conversion of any place of worship and to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it was on 15.8.1947

No specific action is necessary on the recommendation.

Chapter
Para 9
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Chapter IX
Para 9.04
Page 120

Teaching of history had a vital role to play in moulding the minds of children who would be future citizens of the country. A beginning should be made by correcting the text books of history by removing its distortions and by stressing more on the good deeds done by the one community into another. There should be a constant evaluation of text books. The Commission would go so far as to recommend that there should be one set of text books on history for the entire country.

A national programme for review of the school text books from the standpoint of national integration and communal harmony was started in 1980. Initially the review of history and language text books was done through the State agencies, based on the tools of evaluation and guidelines formulated by the NCERT and was completed in 1986. A Steering Committee was set up at the national level to monitor the programme. Keeping in view the postulates of National Policy on Education 1986 the NCERT finalised the national curricular framework in 1988. All school text books and the curricula were revised after this. As the publication of new school text books highlighted the need for a fresh review of school text books, a new National Steering Committee (NSC) to undertake the review was constituted in June 1991 for a period of 5 years. The NCERT provides academic and secretarial support to

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However, it would not be possible to have one set of text books in history for the entire country as it would be against accepted educational principle, supported by almost all Commissions/Committees on Education in India, that school text-books should be "local specific". In a country as vast and diverse as ours it is not educationally sound nor advisable in the context of the Centre State relations to have only one set of text-books in history for the entire country. No specific action is, therefore, necessary.

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Chapter IX
Para 9.05
Page 120

The Commission hopes that voluntary organisations will play a greater role in the promotion of national integration by participating in the various religious festivals and the members of different faiths coming together for this purpose, exchange of cultural programmes between various religions; and economic development of all communities and regions on an equitable basis.

No specific recommendation has been made.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has already been giving grants-in-aid to institutions and voluntary organisations for activities to promote national integration. Such activities include holding of seminars, lectures etc., organising functions on occasions like Independence Day, Republic Day etc. on promotion of national integration, national unity and solidarity.

No action is therefore necessary.

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5. Chapter IX para 9.06 page 120		<p>Chairman, Minorities Commission, had made suggestions about placing some funds at the disposal of the Minorities Commission for promotion of national integration. The Prime Minister's Office informed the Commission that the Ministry of Home Affairs was being requested to do the needful. Accordingly the matter was taken up by the Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Home Affairs has requested the Commission to work out the necessary modalities for sanctioning of grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations which are engaged in the cause of promotion of national integration.</p>	<p>In December, 1988, it was suggested that the Ministry of Home Affairs may consider placing some funds at the disposal of the Minorities Commission every year to enable them to give grants to deserving voluntary organisations for promotion of national integration. The matter was further examined and, in March, 1991 it was decided that there was no need for MHA to place funds at the disposal of Minorities Commission and the existing Scheme of providing grants to voluntary organisations being operated by MHA should continue. No action is necessary as the Commission has not pressed for a decision.</p>

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6. Chapter IX
para 9.07
page 120
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All militant wings/
Senas, however well
meaning or well
intentioned they may
be, should be banned
especially if they
c onducted/in public
because some of
their actions and
policies instilled
fear in the minds
of others and instead
of strengthening
secularism only
weakened it.

In exercise of the powers vested under Section 3
of the Unlawful Activities(Prevention) Act,1967,the
Central Government declared the following associations
as unlawful associations with immediate effect vide
notifications dated 10.12.1992:(

- (i) Rashtriya Swayamsevak Singh(RSS)
- (ii) Bajrang Dal(BD)
- (iii) Vishwa Hindu Parishad(VHP)
- (iv) Islamic Sewak Sangh(ISS)
- (v) Jamaat-e-Islami Hind(JEIH)

The Unlawful Activities(Prevention) Tribunal presided
over by Mr.Justice P.K.Bahri vide order dated 4.6.1993
confirmed declaration relating to VHP but cancelled it in
respect of RSS and BD. The other Unlawful Activities
(Prevention) Tribunal presided over by Mr.Justice P.N.Nag
confirmed the notification in respect of ISS.
The Notification issued on 10.12.1992 in respect of
Jamaat-e-Islami (JEIH) was confirmed by the Unlawful

J.No. 5/1994

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Activities(Prevention)Tribunal by an order dated 11.4.1994.

JEIH has filed a Civil Appeal and a Writ Petition and ISS has filed S.L.P. before the Supreme Court against the order of the Tribunal. The Central Govt has filed S.L.Ps before the Supreme Court against the order of the unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal in respect of RSS and BD. While the Civil appeal and the writ petition filed by the JEIH has been allowed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their favour, the other cases are pending before it.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad(VHP) was again declared as an unlawful association vide Notification dated 14.1.1995. However, the Unlawful Activities(Prevention) Tribunal which was set up to adjudicate upon the Notification dated 14.1.1995 as to whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the association as unlawful, has vide its order dated 20.6.1995 cancelled the Notification.

The State Govts are quite competent to prosecute any person for commission of an offence under section 153A and 153B of the IPC. Any activity which comes within the purview of sections

153A and 153B is treated as an unlawful activity under Section 2 of the Unlawful Activities(Prevention) Act,1967. An association indulging in such activities can be declared as an unlawful association under section 3 of the same Act.

Section 153A of the IPC was amended to add a new sub-para (c) in sub-clause (1) which declares the organisation of any movement or drill or other similar activity as an offence if the intention is to train the participants to use violence against, inter-alia, any religious group. Any such activity would also constitute an offence if it has the effect of causing alarm or feeling of insecurity amongst members of any such group. No specific action is necessary.

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7. Chapter IX
para 9.07
page 120

No permission be given for taking out new religious processions and use of loud-speakers in religious places be totally banned except on public address system within the precincts of these. There must be control on the construction of new places of worship.

These issues come within the purview of State Governments, as the basic responsibility for the maintenance of law and order rests with them. No All-India Policy can be evolved on a sensitive issue like this. Guidelines are issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued guidelines to State Governments on 23.4.1990 under which no new processions as did not exist before 1.1.1990, should normally be allowed. The provision of the Police Act or similar legislation should be effectively used by the local administration while granting permission for the use of loudspeakers. The States have also been advised by Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure that religious places are constructed only with the prior approval of district authorities at the earmarked places. No specific action is necessary.

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8. Chapter IX Para 9.08 Page 121	A Special Task Force with adequate representation of various minority communities in it which would be free from any communal bias, would be useful to Civil authorities for instant deployment during emergency.		The Central Government have already set up a Rapid Action Force under the CRPF to deal with communal riots and riot like situations. The RAF consists of men drawn from different communities. No specific action is necessary.
9. Chapter IX para 9.08 Page 121	The Commission has also recommended reactivating the old scheme of Peace Keeping Force in CRPF which should be deployed as a composite unit consisting of peace keeping elements like engineering, fire-fighting, medical and motor transport teams. These battalions should be based at such trouble spots where communalism has been raising its ugly head regularly not only to instil a feeling of confidence amongst the minority communities, but also to act as a deterrent against communal outbursts		As above.
10. Chapter IX Para 9.08 Page 121	The Commission has also suggested that the Ministry of Home Affairs might suggest to the States having riot prone areas to raise similar special peace-keeping battalions in their Armed Forces.		This has been brought to the notice of the State Governments for appropriate action. No specific action is necessary.

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11. Chapter IX para 9.08 page 121	The Commission attached the highest importance to the speedy and proper rehabilitation of riot victims.	The guidelines to promote communal harmony issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 23.4.1990 to the State Governments-/UT Administrations, laid special emphasis on prompt payment of relief, and rehabilitation of riot affected people. The guidelines require the State Govts to devise the system of expeditious disbursement of ex-gratia relief to riot victims.	In the wake of large scale communal riots after the Ayodhya incident, the Home Minister through a d.o. letter to all the States had suggested payment of ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the persons killed at a uniform enhanced scale of Rs.1 lakh. For those who are permanently incapacitated, a payment of Rs.50,000- was suggested. In the case of Ayodhya incident, related communal riots, it was suggested that the

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amount of ex-gratia relief to be given to the next of kin of the deceased persons be raised to Rs.2 lakhs as a one-time exception. In addition, the following suggestions were also given:-

- (i) Employment of widows or wards of the families, affected by communal riots where earning member of the family had been killed or permanently incapacitated.
- (ii) Allotment of tenements and house sites to families rendered homeless.
- (iii) Allotment of shops/space for kiosks to families to re-start their business.
- (iv) Bank loans for capital investment as also working capital for re-commencement of industries and business affected in the riots.

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decision is essential.

Hearings in the revived title suits have resumed before the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court.

The investigation into the offences relating to the demolition of the RJB-BM structure on 6 December 1992 was entrusted to the CBI who, after completing the same, filed a combined charge sheet against 40 persons in October, 1993. The case after committal is presently being tried in the Court of Special Additional Sessions Judge, Lucknow.

A Commission of Inquiry headed by Mr. Justice Marmohan Singh Liberhan was set-up on 16 December, 1992 to look into inter-alia, matters relating to the occurrences in the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid complex at Ayodhya on 6 December 1992 involving the destruction of the disputed structure. The proceedings of the Commission are in progress.

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Chapter IX
Para 9.09
Page 121

The dispute over Ram Janma Bhoomi temple and Babri Masjid has generated fierce controversy which is being exploited by vested interests to seriously endanger the relations between the two communities. The Minorities Commission had given serious consideration to this matter and has supported the decision of the Govt. of India for setting up of a Special Bench of Allahabad High Court to decide the issue. This decision was communicated to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.

Following the demolition of the ~~Ram Janma Bhoomi Babri~~ Masjid structure at Ayodhya on 6 December 1992, the Central Government had acquired the disputed area and suitable adjacent land through the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Ordinance/ Act 1993. The Supreme Court, vide its judgement dated 24 October 1994, upheld the validity of the Acquisition Act but not the provisions relating to the abatement of the pending suits. Consequently all relevant pending suits and other proceedings have revived for adjudication of the dispute therein. Further, the Central Government is now to act as a statutory receiver of the disputed area with the duty to maintain the status quo therein till the disposal of the revived suits and to hand it over in terms of the adjudication made in the suits for implementation of the final decision therein. Compliance with the Supreme Court's

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13.	Chapter IX para 9.10 page 122	The Commission would recommend that the monitoring agencies at the Centre and the State, should be strengthened and that the Centre should ensure that the programmes included in Chapter XIV on Education are speedily and properly implemented.	<p>Chapter XIV of the Programme for Action (POA) 1986 contains programmes for development of educationally backward minorities based on National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986. The NPE 1986 was reviewed and updated in 1992. Following this, the POA, 1986 was also revised. The revised POA 1992 was tabled in the Parliament on 19 August 1992. In the POA 1992, Chapter 3 deals with minorities education.</p> <p>In pursuance of the programmes set out in the POA 1992 two new Central Schemes, viz. Scheme of Financial Assistance for modernisation of Madrasa education and Scheme of Area Intensive Programmes for educationally backward minorities were approved in May 1993 and launched from the financial year 1993-94. The University Grants Commission has also revised in March 1993 the Scheme of coaching classes for competitive examinations for students from minority communities. All the 41 minority concentration districts listed in POA 1986 have been covered.</p>

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by the Scheme of Community Polytechnics. Due importance is being attached to the need for close monitoring of programmes for the educational development of minorities and the work is being attended to on a continuous basis. A scheme for appointment of Modern Indian Language Teachers in Non-Hindi speaking States has been launched, under which Urdu teachers would also be appointed.

No specific action is, therefore, considered necessary.

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14. Chapter IX
Para 9.11
Page 122

Sometime ago, the Commission had framed model guidelines for recognition and sent them to the Central and State Governments. Except for a few State Governments many have still not framed the guidelines. The Centre should take the lead and frame guidelines for the States to follow.

The Department of Education have prepared policy norms and principles for recognition of minority managed educational institutions other than those meant exclusively for imparting religious instructions as per the model guidelines framed by the Minorities Commission and circulated these to all State Governments and U.T. Administrations for appropriate action on 5th October, 1989.

15.

Chapter IX
Para 9.12
Page 123

A large number of cases regarding recognition or affiliation of the minority institutions in States particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, etc., are pending in courts for a long time. The Commission would strongly urge the Central and State Governments to take immediate appropriate action in this regard according to a time-bound programme to avoid hardships to the students of the institutions involved.

Some important issues relating to minority educational institutions are currently being considered by the Supreme Court in cases arising out of Unnikrishnan Case and judgement of Supreme Court therein. The Department of Education intends to revise its guidelines when the Supreme Court judgement becomes available.

No specific action is, therefore, necessary.

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16. Chapter IX
para 9.13
page 123

There should be greater stress on vocational & technical education. More ITIs should be opened especially in 40 minority concentration districts while in the existing ITIs some specific trades should be strengthened having regard to the needs and background of that area. The Govt. could think of aptitude-searching schemes in the ITIs so that the candidates passing out from these institutions find suitable placement and the money spent on them was not wasted.

/in order to make
education

The Scheme of vocationalisation of secondary education/employment-oriented is being operated by the State Govts. The State Govts have been advised to give preference to the areas of concentration of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minority communities while selecting vocational courses and schools. Under the Scheme of Community Polytechnics introduced with a view to ensuring a fair share of benefits from the investments in technical education system for the rural society, all the 41 minority concentration districts have been covered. Under the Scheme of re-orienting/upgrading training in ITIs in minority concentration districts by adding relevant trades for minority artisans and workers, all ITIs in minority concentration districts have been covered. Career guidance is being provided in all the Employment Exchanges to all candidates. No specific action is, therefore, necessary.

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17. Chapter IX
Page 9.13
Page 123

Students should be prepared and equipped to appear in competitive examinations. For this purpose, there should be greater expansion and coverage of the University Grants Commission Scheme of Coaching classes and more States should be encouraged to avail of it.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing the Scheme of coaching classes for students from educationally backward minorities for improving their performance in competitive exams. The UGC has to meet the expenditure on the Scheme within their normal plan budget. In view of the limited resources available, the UGC is able to implement the Scheme only on a limited scale.

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18.	Chapter IX para 9.14 page 123- 124	Appropriate action should be taken on the major recommendations of the Third Conference of the Chairmen and Members of the Central and State Minorities Commissions/ Boards held on November, 17-18, 1988. The recommendations relate to:	As the Conference was held by the Minorities Commission, follow-up action on these recommendations was already taken to be taken by the Commission. However, specific comments are given below:-
		(a) Non-response of some Ministries and State Governments to the communications of the Minorities Commission.	a) The National Commission for Minorities Act, 1993 has been brought into effect on 17th May, 1993 conferring statutory status on the Commission. The statutory Commission would be more effective in discharging its functions:
		(b) Ministry of Welfare and Bureau of Public Enterprises to undertake monitoring of representation of minorities in services.	b) The Ministry of Welfare is monitoring the representation of minority communities in the Recruitment Boards /Selection Committees so as to ensure no discrimination against minorities in recruitment.
		(c) State Minorities Financial Corporations might mobilise funds from various institutions and individuals living inside the country and non-resident Indians and that that the Govt. should accord permission for the same.	c) This will be forwarded to the State Governments, Administrations and the concerned Central Ministries for appropriate action.

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(d) States which had not excluded WAKF properties from the purview of the Rent Control Act, should do so.

/respective

(d) Since Rent Control is a State subject, Ministry of Welfare has been urging the State Govts. to consider exemption of Wakf properties from the operation of Rent Control Enactments. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Pondicherry have amended their respective State Rent Control Acts to afford relief to Wakf properties in one form or the other. While, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have exempted all Wakf properties from the purview of their Rent Control Laws, Bihar, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Rajasthan have exempted the properties managed by Wakf Boards. The U.T. Admn. of Pondicherry has exempted properties notified in the official gazette by the U.T. Wakf Board. The matter is being pursued with

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(e) Under the UGC Scheme of coaching the Directors in charge of coaching centres should be senior professors, preferably belonging to minorities and some stipend and hostel facilities to such students should be provided. Further the coaching centres need not be in a University but should be located in a minority institution under the University.

being professors and retired civil servants

(e) The revised Scheme of Coaching Classes for weaker sections amongst educationally Backward Minorities provides that the Directors/Coordinators should be motivated persons, familiar with competitive examinations; or professionals having sufficient experience in the fields.

Because of limited funds available for the Scheme, the provisions of stipend and hostel facilities to students will be difficult.

The revised Scheme further provides that for the preparation for civil services examination the 5 designated Universities (Jamia Millia Islamia, Bombay, Madras, Osmania and Calcutta) may employ reputed private coaching institutions available in the region.

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(f) State Governments should ensure that the primary education to the Buddhist Children of the region should be imparted in their mother-tongue.

f) The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities ensure that education at primary stage is provided in mother-tongue to the Children belonging to linguistic minority groups in accordance with Article 350(A) of the Constitution.

(g) The three language formula should be implemented faithfully by all the States.

g) All the States/UTs except Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have in principle accepted the 3 language formula. The latter are implementing the 2 language formula. The extent of implementation varies from State to State.

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(h) The States should ensure that Braille in Urdu should be taught to blind students as has been done in Andhra Pradesh.

(h) As mentioned in the recommendation, Braille in Urdu is being taught to blind students in Andhra Pradesh, besides Ahmedi School for the Blind under Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh as reported by the National Institute for Visually Handicapped. No other State has approached the Institute for assistance in teaching Braille in Urdu to blind students in their State. The recommendation will be brought to the notice of State Governments for necessary action.

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19. Chapter IX Appropriate action should
Para 9.15 be taken on the following
Page 124- points which emerged
125 during the course of
 discussion in the meetings
 held by the Chairman,
 Minorities Commission
 with the Members of
 Parliament belonging to
 Muslim, Christian,
 Sikh and Buddhist
 communities.

These points are also to be pursued by
the Commission itself. However,
specific comments are given below:

(a) There should not be
any TV/AI coverage
of religious
functions. There
should be absence
of religious
symbolism in
public functions.

(a) The policy of the Electronic Media is to
highlight the universality of all religions,
humanistic messages of all great spiritual
leaders, messages of brotherhood and peace
as projected by all religions, without
projecting any particular religions practices
or the superiority of any particular religion.
The major consideration in all such programmes
is to project the idea of secularism and
universality of all religions. The media have
been taking due care to avoid religious ritual
practices or preaching for conversion etc

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(b) There should be mixed police force to deal with communal situations and the PAC should act under the charge of local police officials in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) There should be a Minorities Commission in every State.

(b) The Min. of Home Affairs has taken action to create a Rapid Action Force which is a mixed force by reconstituting and re-grouping some battalions of CRPF to deal with communal riot and riot-like situations.

(c) It is for the State Governments to consider setting up of State Minorities Commission. A similar recommendation was made by the Minorities Commission in its 9th Annual Report. The recommendation has been sent to the State Governments/UT Admn for necessary action. At present, Minorities Commissions/Boards exist in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

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(d) The one-Day Conference of Central and State Minorities Commissions/Boards being convened by the Ministry of Welfare should be followed by a meeting of High-Powered Committee on implementation of 15-Point Programme and a meeting to discuss the problems of linguistic minorities in the subsequent two days.

(e) Urdu should be recognised as a second language in States having a sizeable Urdu speaking population. Three language formula should be fully implemented in letter and spirit throughout the country.

(d) The Ministry holds Conferences of State Ministers incharge of Welfare of Minorities in which issues relating to 15-Point Programme, Linguistic Minorities as well as other related issues are discussed. These issues are also discussed in other Conferences held by the Ministry from time to time.

(e) As regards recognition of Urdu as a second language, the decision is to be taken by the State Govts. The three language Formula is being implemented by all States/UTs except Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry to different extents.

The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India has also made a similar recommendation in his successive reports. The recommendation has been brought to the notice of the State Governments/UT Admins for necessary action.

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(f) The judgement the Supreme Court in the Frank Anthony Public School case that the teachers of unaided minorities schools would receive the same pay and allowances as in Govt Schools would create problems for the unaided minorities schools, forcing them to increase the tuition fees to meet the higher salary Bill. The Govt should look into this.

(f) In all cases concerning minority educational institutions the Courts have taken the view that subject to maintenance of standards and observing reasonable regulations, such institutions should be given fullest discretion in managing themselves. However, in matters concerning salary of teachers there would be problems, if the teachers in minority educational institutions get less pay than the Government school teachers particularly after the Supreme Court judgement in Frank Anthony Public School case which has to be implemented

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(g) Additional funds should be provided for revitalisation of Buddhist institutions like the institute of Higher Studies at Samath (recognised as a deemed University).

(g) The position of grants to institutions of Buddhists and Tibetan studies is given below:-

Name of Institution	1992-93 Actuals	1993-94 (R.E.)	(Rs. in lakhs) 1994-95 (B.E.)
Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi.	179.05	189.60	190.00
Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh.	78.01	96.50	105.00
Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok	17.00	17.00	17.00

As is evident, additional funds are provided, depending upon requirement.

No specific action is considered necessary.

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20. Chapter IX
Para 9.16
Page 126

All the five religious minorities were also to a great extent, linguistic minorities in many areas and there is close linkage and commonality of interests between the religious minorities and the language spoken by them. As the matters could well be viewed differently from linguistic and religious angles leading to the Commission and the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities working at cross purposes, it was suggested by the Minorities Commission to the Ministry of Welfare that the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities be appointed as an ex-officio Member of the Minorities Commission so as to provide necessary linkage. Appropriate action should be taken on this.

Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities (commonly known as Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities) is a constitutional functionary under Article 350(B) of the Commission. His duty is to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided to the linguistic minorities. Further, Minorities Commission is now a statutory body, re-constituted as the National Commission for Minorities under National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Hence the recommendation to appoint the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities as ex-officio Member of the Minorities Commission is not acceptable.

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21. Chapter IX In addition to the lead given
Para 9.17 by the Reserve Bank of India
Page 126 by issuing appropriate
instructions and guidelines
to the Nationalised Banks
in regard to flow of
credit to the minorities,
greater efforts are needed
on part of banks in this
direction specially in 40
concentration districts
and minority pockets.

Following the instructions of Reserve
Bank of India to the Nationalised banks,
there has been a steady increase in loans
advanced to minority communities which has
been appreciated by the Minorities
Commission itself. However, the
Government has since set up a National
Minorities Finance Development Corporation
which could help to mobilise more resources
from financial institutions/banks for the
development of minorities.

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22. Chapter IX Apart from the benefits
Para 9.18 flowing to the minorities
Page 127 under the 20-Point
Programme and other
poverty alleviation schemes,
the Commission advocated
the need to have specific
economic development schemes
for the minorities based on
the area-approach or the
target-group approach. As
a start, the Commission had
suggested to the Ministry of
Welfare and the Planning
Commission to set up a Working
Group for this purpose for the
VIIIth Plan and thereafter to
evolve specific schemes.
23. Chapter IX The Ministry of Welfare had
IX been requested to formulate
para 9.19 a Plan scheme in consultation
page 127 with the Planning Commission,
for rendering Central
financial assistance to the
State level Minorities
Development/Financial
Corporations on 50:50 basis.
Accordingly, this matter had
been taken up with the
Ministry of Welfare, but no
final decision had so far been
communicated to the
Commission.
- The Government has proposed to prepare multi-
sectoral plan in minority concentration areas
from 1995-96 onwards for which funds are to be
provided by the Planning Commission. For this
purpose the existing list of minority concentra-
tion districts will be reviewed in order to
prioritise them on need-based basis. Further after
identifying predominant occupations of the minority
communities in those districts (or blocks or towns
whenever necessary) special area programmes will be
prepared for those units incorporating provisions for
credit raw material appropriate technology, market
support etc. The National Minorities Development and
Finance Corporation has been set up in 1994-95 with an
authorised share capital of Rs.500 crores and has equity
share of Rs.125 crores from the Central Govt for the
Eighth Plan. The balance equity will be that of the
State Minorities Corporations and individuals. Financial
assistance will be provided through the State level
Minorities Development Corporations or other channelising
agencies designated by the State Governments. The
Corporation, registered as a Company under Section 25 of
the Companies Act, 1956 is to promote economic and
* development activities for the benefit of backward classes amongst the Minorities
with preference to occupational groups and women.

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As regard the recommendation for providing financial assistance to the State level Minorities Development/Finance Corporation from the Central Government, the proposal, in the context of the setting up of the N.M.F.D.C., and need for strengthening the equity base of the State level Corporations will have to be examined.

24. Chapter IX
Para 9.20
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The State Governments and the concerned Central Ministries/Depts. should send to the Commission the copies of the Quarterly reports on the implementation of the 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities to enable the Commission to monitor and review the programme.

The Ministry of Welfare has been monitoring the implementation of the 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. Quarterly Reports on the implementation are received from the State Governments and the Central Ministries/Departments concerned with the Programme. The Reports are analysed and the follow up action is taken. Whenever necessary the information received from the concerned Ministries/Departments will be made available to the Commission.

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25.	Chapter IX Para 9.22 Page 129	The Commission itself it would like to reiterate with all the emphasis at its command, its earlier recommendation that it should be granted statutory status, or if this was likely to be delayed, then the powers of investigation and inquiry under Section 5 of the Commission of Inquiry Act should be conferred on it.	Statutory status has been conferred on the Minorities Commission through the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
26.	Chapter IX Para 9.22 Page 129	The Government should sanction expeditiously the additional staff asked by it, since the matter had been pending for a long time.	Staff Inspection Unit has conducted inspection of the Minorities Commission and made recommendations regarding additional staff. The additional staff as recommended by the S.I.U has since been sanctioned.
27.	Chapter IX Para 9.23 Page 129	In order to meet its financial requirements, the Commission has been requesting the Ministry of Welfare for the grant of additional funds. The Ministry was accommodated the financial requirements of the Commission to a very limited extent only.	The requests of the Commission for additional funds are considered from time to time and additional funds is provided to the Commission keeping in view the availability of resources with the Government.

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<p>28. Chapter IX Para 9.24 Page 129</p>	<p>The Commission would, therefore urge the Government that its Annual Reports be placed expeditiously before the Parliament and that these be discussed and debated.</p>		<p>The recommendation is noted by the Government.</p>
<p>29. Chapter IX Para 9.24 Page 130</p>	<p>In matters of policy formulations, evaluations and implementation, the Commission felt that the Government could make greater use of the Commission's expertise and knowledge.</p>		<p>The recommendation is noted by the Government.</p>