



# Standing Committee Report Summary

## The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009

- The Standing Committee on Human Resource Development submitted its 218<sup>th</sup> Report on ‘The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009’ on November 25, 2009. The Chairperson was Shri Oscar Fernandes.
- The Bill does not include a provision prescribing the date of commencement of the legislation. The Committee recommended that the commencement clause should be included in the Bill.
- The Bill amends the Act to allow a person to set up a “minority educational institution” and includes university within its definition. The Committee emphasised that power to establish a university is a right of the state and not of an individual or a group of persons. Also, there are certain legal procedures that have to be followed in order to establish a university. Since establishing a university without such procedure can lead to legal complexities in future, the Committee recommended that this issue should be examined more thoroughly.
- The Committee feels that a separate definition of “college” is not required in the Bill since it is covered in the definition of “minority educational institution.”
- The Committee recommended that the membership of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions should be increased to protect the rights of all five religious minorities. In order to ensure speedy disposal of cases, the Committee is of the opinion that additional benches should be constituted and asked the concerned Ministry to examine the feasibility of the proposal and take the required action.
- The Committee suggested that the government should explore the possibility of inclusion of linguistic minorities within the ambit of the law.
- The Committee proposed that the Bill be passed after incorporating the amendments suggested. It also requested the Ministry to submit a note stating the reasons why a certain recommendation could not be included in the Bill.

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