

## Minorities

10.67 Five communities viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis have been declared as minority communities by the Union Government in 1993. In the 'The First Report on Religion Data', released by the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner on 6.9.2004, the population figures of the five notified religious minority communities as per Census have been given in Table 10.12

10.68 With a population of 189.5 million, the five notified religious minority communities constituted 18.42 per cent of the total population of the country. The programmes for welfare of minorities are being implemented through Maulana Azad Education Foundation for educational development of minorities and economic development through the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC). NMDFC has been provided higher allocation of Rs.71.29 crore

**Table 10.12 : Minority Communities**

Religious Community	Population
Muslims	1,38,188,240
Christians	24,080,016
Sikhs	19,215,730
Buddhists	7,955,207
Parsis	69,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>189,508,794</b>

in the current year than the previous year of Rs.17.16 crore.

10.69 The NCMP also gives emphasis for welfare of minorities. A notification has been issued for setting up a National Commission for Socially and Economically Backward Sections among religious and linguistic minorities. A Constitutional Amendment Bill has been introduced in the Parliament on 23.12.2004 to confer Constitutional status upon the National Commission for Minorities.