



Annual Report

2015-16

West Bengal Minorities' Commission



**'Khadya Bhawan', Block – 'A', Ground Floor,
11A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata- 700 087**

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Preface

The West Bengal Minorities' Commission is a Statutory body under Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department. The Commission, since its inception in 1994, has been working as apex body in this State for the redressal of Minorities' grievances. The Annual Report, containing a brief account of the functions of the Commission during the financial year 2015-16, has been finalised and approved in the 104th meeting of the Commission held on 3rd November, 2016. This Annual Report is therefore forwarded to the State Government and MIC of MA&ME Department for kind perusal and consideration.

Dated: 3rd November, 2016

















Alhaj Intaj Ali Shah,
M.A., L.L.B., W.B.H.J.S.(Retd. Judge)
Chairman,
West Bengal Minorities' Commission

Place: Khadya Bhawan,
Block A, Ground Floor,
11A, Mirza Ghalib Street,
Kolkata- 700 087

Detail of the Commission

Members:

	Name	Designation
	Alhaj Intaj Ali Shah , M.A., L.L.B., W.B.H.J.S. (Retd. Judge)	Chairman
	Prof. Maria Fernandes , M.A., M.Phil (History), P.G.B.S.	Vice Chairperson
	Sri N.F. Tankariwala , (Parsee)	Member
	Sri Derek O' Brien , MP, (Christian)	Member
	Sri Ashok Turakhia (Jain)	Member
	Sri Bikash Barua , (Buddhist)	Member
	Syed Marshood Ali Al-Quadri , (Muslim)	Member
	Mr. Jaidul Islam Khan , (Muslim)	Member
	Shri Lakhbindar Singh , (Sikh)	Member {till 04.03.2016}
	Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali , (Muslim)	Member {till 04.03.2016}
	Mrs. Shehnaz Quadery , (Muslim)	Member
	Sayeed Ahmed Baba , IAS, Principal Secretary , MA & ME Department	Ex-Officio Member (till 04.01.2016)
	S. Suresh Kumar , IAS, Principal Secretary , MA & ME Department	Ex-Officio Member (since 04.01.2016)
	Shri Shakeel Ahmed , WBCS(Exe); Member-Secretary & Ex-Officio Special Secretary	Ex-Officio Member

Detail of Staff Strength

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Sanctioned Post	Existing Post	Vacant Post
1.	Member Secretary (in the Rank of Joint Secretary)	1	1	0
2.	Assistant Secretary	1	0	1
3.	Personal Assistant	3	2	1
4.	U. D. Assistant	2	1	1
5.	Typist	2	2	0
6.	Accountant	1	0	1
7.	L. D. Assistant	1	0	1
8.	Peon	4	2	2
	TOTAL	15	8	7

Nature of complaints/ grievances

The West Bengal Minorities' Commission is a statutory body constituted under West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996.

This body while discharging functions enshrined u/s 4 of West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996, also functions as apex body in the State of West Bengal for the redressal of Minorities' grievances.

1.

- In the year 2015-16, 337 numbers of complaints/ grievances from the petitioners were received. All 337 complaints were found worth considering prima-facia.
- Out of 337 complaints, the redressal of 310 complaints with due satisfaction to the petitioners could be achieved on 1st intervention.
- 27 no of grievances are at the stage of enquiry.

2. Suo-Moto Cognizance is taken for 5 cases from News clippings of Esteemed Newspapers.

The complaints broadly fell under the following categories:-

- ❖ Non-action on the complaints of minorities by Police authority.
- ❖ Inaction or non- cooperation with minorities by different departments
- ❖ Discrimination in service matters, selection and appointment procedures, educational matters including scholarship discrimination and other kind of deprivation.
- ❖ Encroachment to the land of graveyard/ mosque/ Idgah or harassment to the house owners whose house is situated in majority area.
- ❖ Apprehension of Communal flares up on the occasion of Eid-Ud-Zoha/ Muharram and not allowing performing Quarbani.
- ❖ Delay in getting OBC/ ST Certificates/ Passport from the competent authority.
- ❖ Haj related/ Wakf related matters.
- ❖ Non-recognition, financial helps in the SSK/ MSK schools/ Madrasahs- Mid-day meal & dress etc.
- ❖ Various types of personal disputes and land disputes.

On receipt of complaints, the contents of petitions are examined and if there is prima-facie evidence of discrimination or preferential treatment to the minorities, a report is sought from the concerned department. The reports, received, are again examined and if seemed satisfactory to the Commission, the copy of the same is communicated to the petitioner for feedback.

Most of the matters are favourably solved at the first intervention of Commission. But, there are few occasions where the petitioner is not satisfied with the outcome of the matter. In that case, the commission constitutes a bench for hearing of the matter with all sides.

3. Following are the cases those were resolved by resorting to hearing and passing reasoned order:-

- Hearing of Md. Obaidulla Miya, President, Jateswar Masjid Committee, Alipurduar (MC/C-99/2015)
- Hearing of Adarsh Hindi Girl's High School on 6/8/15 at 2pm (MC/C-195/2015)
- Hearing of Mr. Jugal Kumar Ekka on 30.07.15 at 12:30 pm (MC/C-281/2015)
- Hearing of Sabera Begum on 03.09.2015 at 2:00 pm (MC/C-263/2015)

An Account of Disposal of Complaints

2014-15			2015-16		
No. of Complaints received.	No. of Complaints taken for Action.	No. of Complaints disposed.	No. of Complaints received.	No. of Complaints taken for Action.	No. of Complaints disposed of.
294	294	ALL	337	337	310

Number of Meetings with Date:

Meeting No.	Date	Members Attended
95 th Meeting	14 th May, 2015	Intaj Ali Shah , Chairman; Prof. Maria Fernandes , Vice Chairperson; Shakeel Ahmed , Member Secretary; Shri Lakhbindar Singh ; Shri Bikash Barua ; Shri N. F. Tankariwala ; Syed Marshood Ali Al-Quadri ; Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali ; Mr. Ashok Turakhia ; Shri Jaidul Islam Khan
96 th Meeting	22 nd July, 2015	Intaj Ali Shah , Chairman; Prof. Maria Fernandes , Vice Chairperson; Shakeel Ahmed , Member Secretary; Shri Lakhbindar Singh ; Shri Bikash Barua ; Shri N. F. Tankariwala ; Syed Marshood Ali Al-Quadri ; Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali ; Mr. Ashok Turakhia ; Mrs. Shehnaz Quadery
97 th Meeting	29 th September, 2015	Intaj Ali Shah , Chairman; Shakeel Ahmed , Member Secretary; Shri Lakhbindar Singh ; Shri Bikash Barua ; Shri N. F. Tankariwala ; Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali ; Shri Jaidul Islam Khan ; Mrs. Shehnaz Quadery
98 th Meeting	27 th November, 2015	Intaj Ali Shah , Chairman; Prof. Maria Fernandes , Vice Chairperson; Shakeel Ahmed , Member Secretary; Shri Lakhbindar Singh ; Shri Bikash Barua ; Shri N. F. Tankariwala ; Syed Marshood Ali Al-Quadri ; Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali ; Shri Jaidul Islam Khan ; Mrs. Shehnaz Quadery
99 th Meeting	15 th January, 2016	Intaj Ali Shah , Chairman; Prof. Maria Fernandes , Vice Chairperson; Shakeel Ahmed , Member Secretary; Shri N. F. Tankariwala ; Mrs. Shehnaz Quadery ; Shri Lakhbindar Singh ; Shri Bikash Barua ; Syed Marshood Ali Al-Quadri ; Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali ; Shri Jaidul Islam Khan ; Mr. Ashok Turakhia
100 st Meeting	10 th March, 2016	Intaj Ali Shah , Chairman; Prof. Maria Fernandes , Vice Chairperson; Shakeel Ahmed , Member Secretary; Shri Suresh Kumar , IAS, Pr. Secretary, Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department; Shri Lakhbindar Singh ; Shri Bikash Barua ; Syed Marshood Ali Al-Quadri ; Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali

A brief account of hearings conducted by the bench of the commission

Case 1

- a. **File No.:** MC/C-99/2015 dt. 09.04.2015
- b. **Complainant:** Md.Obaidulla Miya, President, Jateswar Masjid Committee, Dist. Alipurduar, PIN- 735 216
- c. **Petition:** Jateswarhat Kothari Plantation & Industries Ltd. has taken over 0.47 Acres out of total 0.62 Acres of land from the Masjid, which is almost 85 years old, without their knowledge. The masjid committee again and again pleaded to the Block Land and Land Reforms Officer (B.L.L.R.O.), but of no use. Later on 11/04/1986 and 25/11/1990, on the presence of local A.D.M. and political committees, it was decided that the Company will use the acquired 0.47 Acres of land for the use of Hat (Bazar) and they will provide sufficient compensation to the Masjid committee for its development. However, they have not kept their words at all. Meanwhile, one Business Organization, named Shiva Udyog, started to impose false cases on the Masjid Committee claiming to be the owner of the land of the Jateswar Hat & Masjid.
- d. **Hearing Date:** 20/11/2015
- e. **Bench Comprises:** Intaj Ali Shah, Hon'ble Chairman, WBMC.
Shakeel Ahmed, Member-Secretary, WBMC.
Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali, Member, W.B.M.C.
- f. **Verdict:** The Bench has directed both the parties to ventilate their grievances before the L.R.T.T. or Revenue Officer

Case 2

- a. **File No.:-** MC/C-195/2015 dt. 06.07.2015
- b. **Complainant :-** Mr. Uma Kant Mishra, Teacher-in-Charge, Adarsh Hindi High School and Mrs. Pratima Das, Headmistress of Adarsh Hindi Girls' High School
- c. **Complain:** Granting Minority Status to their School. The Hon'ble High Court fixed the responsibility upon this Commission and further opined whether the school to be entitled to avail benefits of Article 30 of the Constitution as Linguistic Minority Status or not
- d. **Hearing Date:** 06.08.2015
- e. **Bench Comprises:** Intaj Ali Shah, Hon'ble Chairman, WBMC.
N. F. Tankariwala, Member
- f. **Verdict:** The Bench advised the representatives of the Adarsh Hindi High School that they can prescribe academic qualification for teachers and other staff and from rules regulations to maintain academic standards

Case 3

- a. **File No.:** MC/C-218/2015 dt. 21.07.2015
- b. **Complainant:** Mr. Jugal Kumar Ekka, of Flat No. 1B, 17/1, Jogendra Garden, Kol-78
- c. **Petition:** Mr. Ekka complained that he had sought for certified Xerox copy of letter issued by Prof. Maria Fernandes, Vice-Chairperson of this Commission to the District Inspector of Schools (S.E.), Jalpaiguri & Secretary, School Education Department from SPIO, West Bengal Minorities' Commission u/s 19(1) of RTI Act, 2005. But, the SPIO, West Bengal Minorities' Commission has informed him that the information is NIL & NON-EXISTENT as Vice Chairperson is not an office bearer of West Bengal Minorities' Commission and hence not authorised to issue any official letter/ order.
- d. **Hearing Date:** 30.07.2015
- e. **Bench Comprises:** Intaj Ali Shah, Hon'ble Chairman, WBMC.
- f. **Verdict:** The Bench found that the Hon'ble Chairman is not the Appellate Authority of this Commission regarding RTI matter and the applicant himself admitted his error in this regard. So the bench decided not to entertain this appeal and/or to give any further hearing. The bench also warned Mr. Ekka for his erroneous work and superficial knowledge

Case 4

- a. **File No.:** MC/C-263/2015 dated 13.08.2015
- b. **Complainant:** Sabera Begum, D/o. Abul Alam Khan, Vill.- Uttar Khan Para Masila, P.O.- Masila, P.S.- Sankrail, Dist- Howrah, PIN- 711 302
- c. **Petition:** Complained against her husband and other members of her in-law's house for mentally and physically torturing her. As a result of that she had to leave her in-law's house and stay with her parents ever since.
- d. **Hearing Date:** 3rd September, 2015
- e. **Bench Comprises:** Intaj Ali Shah, Hon'ble Chairman, WBMC.
- f. **Verdict:** The Bench suggested to take recourse before the Court of adjudications under Section 125 Cr.Pc. as the Opposite Party has not yet divorced nor he had paid any maintenance to the poor incumbent

A brief Account of Important Complaints & Commission's Successful Intervention

Sl.No	File No. with Name & Address of the Petitioner	Grievance	Intervention by the Commission	Status
1.	MC/C-108/2015 Gazal Faiaz, w/o Modassir Faiaz, 25, Dr Suresh Sarkar Road, Marlin Regency, Flat No. 6E, Kolkata- 700 014	The petitioner complained against her husband, Modassir Faiaz and other in-laws for mentally and physically torturing her for money, jewellery etc. They have compelled her to terminate her pregnancy and she had to leave her in-law's house	The Commission asked the Commissioner of Police, Lalbazar to cause an enquiry and send a status report on the matter	The enquiry founds all the allegations to be true. The investigation is still in progress and police is trying to apprehend the accused persons
2.	MC/C-116/2015 Jahanara Bibi, W/o Asraf Ali Khan, Vill.- Laxmanpara, P.O.+P.S.- Kalna, Burdwan	The complaint is against her neighbour Subrata Mukherjee and his family for torturing, abusing and threatening them to leave the village	The Commission sought an enquiry report from S.P. & D.M., Burdwan	The enquiry report revealed that it had been a long disputed matter over drainage system between the two families. Police has identified both the parties as potentially desperate but assured to maintain communal peace in the locality
3.	MC/C-120/2015 Dr. Salman Hussein, House Staff, K.P.C. Medical College & Hospital, Jadavpur, Kolkata- 700 032	The Petitioner appealed for refunding his Scholarship money of Rs. 20,000/- which he was awarded by Haldia Institute of Dental Science & Research Institute in the Year 2008-09	The Commission sought for an enquiry report on the matter from The Principal of the College and M.D, WBMDFC	The Amount was disbursed to the incumbent on 23/07/2015 through cheque
4.	MC/C-155/2015 Presbyter-in-Charge, Dayabari Pastorate, St. Luke's Church, Dayabari, Nadia	A large portion of the Church area is due to be in acquisition of NHAI in order to widen the NH-34, which will damage the main building as well as the peace of the Church. So the petitioner has proposed to rebuild the Church in a separate place	The Commission sought report from D.M., Nadia	From the report, it is learnt that the compensation value of the acquired land has already been paid to the Church Authority and an on-the-spot meeting was held on 02/06/2015 to ensure that no portion of the Church building will be demolished
5.	MC/C-163/2015 Sk. Israil, Vill- Baksa Sekhpara, P.O.- Baksa, P.S.- Chanditala, Hooghly- 712 304	The petitioner complained against SK. Liakat Ali, Sk. Mohabbat Ali and 6 others for obstructing and physically torturing him when he tried to harvest crops from his own land	Commission asked the D.L. & L.R.O., Hooghly to look into the matter and send status report on the matter	ADM (MA&ME) Hooghly has assured that appropriate steps would be taken from their end to redress the grievance of Sk. Israil
6.	MC/C-203/2015 Md. Enarul Haque Khan, Vill+P.O.- Vikurdihi, P.S.- Bankura, Dist- Bankura, PIN- 722 101	The complaint is against one Mahadev Garai and 4 others, who beat Mr. Haque's daughter, Niloofa Khatun, to death on the ground that the cows ate the paddy seed of Mahadev Garai	The Commission immediately asked S.P., Bankura to look into the matter and submit a status report	The report of S.P., Bankura states that the accused persons have been arrested and taken into judicial custody and will be punished according to laws

7.	MC/C-282/2015 Md. Quamruzzaman, General Secretary, All Bengal Minority Youth Foundation, B-41H/6, Bright Street, Kolkata- 700 017	Sealdah GRP harassed and detained 62 Madrasah Students of Purnia, Bihar on suspicion while they were travelling to Maharashtra for education	The commission promptly asked for an enquiry report from DIG (GRP), Sealdah	Sealdah GRP received a tip from a reliable source of child trafficking via Hatebazare Express. On spot enquiry and search, 63 children, all under the age of 14, from Purnia, Bihar, were found; some of them even didn't possess any identity proof. One Faizan Mehmood Sheikh told that he was taking the children to a madrasah in Maharashtra for their education. However, he failed to produce any consent letters from the parents. Police rescued the children and sent them back to their own houses in Purnia, Bihar
8.	MC/C-301/2015 Sabhapati, Burapir, Motowalli Committee, Buniadpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, PIN- 713 101	The petitioner complained that some villagers from Buniadpur & Barail have started erecting pandel for observing Durga Puja on a Wakf estate, which is used as Mazar, just on the eve of the Holy Muharram without any consent from local administration or themselves	The commission asked the D.M., Dakshin Dinajpur to look into the matter and send an action taken report to this Commission	The matter was resolved through a meeting, presided over by SDO, Gangarampur, with both the parties where it was decided that the Puja committee will dismantle the Pandel on 22.10.15 so that there is enough time to prepare the ground for observance of Muharram. Both parties happily agreed to co-operate in the process.
9.	MC/C-302/2015 Md. Tauqeer, V-239/H, Kankhuli Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata- 700 018	The petitioner claimed that the Office of Backward Class Welfare had refused to take his application for obtaining OBC certificate in spite of providing all the relevant documents	The Commission asked the Collector and District Welfare Officer, Kolkata to cause an enquiry into the matter and send an action taken report to this Commission	District Welfare Officer has informed that the OBC certificate (No. WB1701OBC201503640) has already been issued in favour of the petitioner
10.	MC/C-352/2015 Sk. Ahmed & Others, B/38/H/1-3, Kashinath Dutta Road, P.S.- Cossipur, Kolkata- 700 036	Petitioners complained against one Swapan Chakraborty and his groups for threatening them to leave the premises, they live; in order to take possession of the land	The Commission has sought for a status report on the matter	The Commissioner of police has stated that all the accused persons are arrested and investigation of the case is still on. However, Police picket has been deployed in the vicinity of the residence of the petitioners to prevent any unwanted incidents

11.	MC/C-367/2015 Saheba Khatun, Vill- Kanchannagar, P.O.- Samsabad, P.S.- Nandigram, Purba Medinipur, PIN- 721 631	The petitioner was appointed as Anganwadi Worker on 19.01.2010. But she was debarred from her duty by CDPO, Nandigram 1, ICDS Project from December 2015 on the ground that her marks was wrongly enhanced	The Commission asked the D.M., Purba Medinipur to look into the matter and send a status report to the Commission	The petitioner was terminated because she was not eligible for the job as her name was not in the revised merit list. However, the petitioner has later resumed her duty by order of the Hon'ble High Court
12.	MC/C-08/2016 Sk. Nuruddin, Panchberia- Kazi Mohalla, Hider Chowk, P.O.- Inda, P.S.- Kharagpur, Paschim Medinipur, PIN- 721 305	The petitioner, a physically handicapped person, complained against one Wakesh Das & Wasir Das for threatening him with dire consequences to evict his watch repair shop (rental)	The commission asked for an action taken report on the incident from the S.P., Paschim Medinipur	According to the report, the petitioner had not lodged any case against the accused persons and now, has stated that, he is doing business peacefully. However, he has been advised to take shelter of law, if any problem arises
13.	MC/C-18/2016 Afsana Begum, W/o Sk.Haider, Vill+P.O.- Bankra, P.S.- Domjur, Howrah, PIN- 711 403	The petitioner complained against the officials of UBI, Bankra Branch for unnecessarily harassing her regarding sanctioning of Loan under SVSKP Scheme	D.M. Howrah has been requested to cause an enquiry on the matter and send status report to the Commission	The Branch Manager, Bankra Branch of UBI has informed that her loan account has been opened and concerned letters has already been despatched
14.	MC/C-29/2016 Ms. Alisha Khatun, Student, Birbhum Mahavidyalaya College, Suri, Birbhum	The petitioner complained against the Hostel super and matron of the Birbhum Mahavidyalaya College's Girls' hostel for harassing, torturing and neglecting the hostel students	D.M., Birbhum was requested to look into the problem and send a status report to this Commission	Show cause letter was issued in favour of the Hostel Super and Matron. They have accepted their fault and prayed for excuse. D.M., Birbhum has accepted their apologies and issued warning letters to them
15.	MC/C-73/2016 Mr. Muktar Ali & others, B.T. Men's Hostel, Central park, P.O.-Kalyani, Dist.- Nadia, PIN- 741 235	The petitioners have complained that they have not received OBC certificate for the F.Y- 2015-16 from the Kalyani University; although they received the same in the previous Financial Year	The Commission has asked for status report on the matter from D.M., Nadia	The OBC scholarship has already been issued in favour of the petitioners
16.	MC/C-74/2016 B. Etimuni Chakma, T.G 3/8, Lichubagan, Tegharia, P.O.- Hatiara, Kolkata-700 157	The petitioner claimed that his B.E (Hons) Part-III result has been withheld by the Bidhannagar University due to some unknown reason	A report was sought for from the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor & Registrar of West Bengal State University	In his report, Hon'ble vice-Chancellor stated that there was an unknown problem with the Admit Card of the petitioner. He has assured to enquire into the matter and said that if everything is found alright, the petitioner will get his result

An account of Suo-moto cognizance

West Bengal Minorities' Commission is a high powered statutory body empowered by West Bengal Legislative Assembly to monitor working of rights and safeguards provided in the Constitution and Laws of the country for the Minorities, and to look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of such rights and safeguards by exercising "all powers of a civil court". During the Reporting year 2015-16, there were some matters for which the West Bengal Minorities' Commission took Suo-Moto cognizance or made special intervention and tried to mitigate the grievance as quickly as possible. A summary of such interventions is given below:-

1. Madrasah Head Master Attacked by the Fundamentalists

Kazi Mausam Akhtar, Head Master of Talpukur Ara High Madrasah, Kolkata, was attacked near the school premises by some students and outsiders on 26th March, 2015 on the allegation that he was speaking words and publishing articles against Islam and the Prophet. He was rescued by the local police and taken to hospital. He was not even allowed to join the School after returning from hospital.

Intervention by the Commission

The incident came to the attention of the Commission through a News under the Headline, "Madrasah Principal Attacked", published in the English daily, The Times of India, on 2nd of April, 2015.

The commission asked for a detailed status report from the Commissioner of Police, Lalbazar.

Redressal:

The Report revealed that Mr. Akhtar did utter some anti-Islamic words which are very sensitive. He is also known for publishing articles advocating progressive thoughts and ideas which were not welcomed by the fundamentalists. He, being dissatisfied with the result of the steps taken by this Commission, went to All India Congress Committee for redressal and made complaint against this Commission. This Commission quickly responded to justify its action and published a report in the Bengali Newspaper, Kalom, on 10.01.2016, denying all the allegation of Mr. Akhtar.

2. Catholic Graveyard in Kurseong desecrated by some unknown miscreants

Some unknown persons, dressed in a local school uniform, desecrated several graveyards at the Catholic Graveyard, near the S.D.O. office, Kurseong on 01.04.106 at about 05:00 p.m.

Intervention by the Commission

The Commission came to know of the incident through the News Clipping, "Kurseong Catholic graveyard desecrated" published in the English daily, The Statesman, on 04.04.2015.

The local Police authority was requested to look into the matter and take necessary action. A status report was sought from the S.P., Darjeeling

Redressal:

The local police left no stone unturned to identify the miscreants and apprehend them.

3. 5 Killed and 30 injured in a clash between two groups at Juranpur village under Kalingang P.S.

At least 5 persons were killed and 30 injured, including 8 policemen, in a clash between two religious groups at Juranpur, Kaligang, Burdwan. The incident started when a religious precession was returning from Dharmaraj mela at

Jamalpur, Purbasthali and passing by a mosque at Juranpur at about 3 p.m. on 04.05.2015. The clash turned violent as both parties resorted to firing and bombing. On hearing about the clash, local police came to the spot and tried to stop it, but it was too heavy and as a result, 8 policemen were injured. Several houses were burnt to ashes

Intervention by the Commission

The commission came to know about the news via the newspaper “The Statesman” and “Bartaman” on 05.05.2015. D.M., Nadia and S.P. Nadia were asked to enquire into the matter and send a status report to this commission.

Redressal

The report says that some Hindus, who were arrested later, from the procession, provoked the local Muslims of Juranpur which made them violent and in no time a large riotous mob gathered and attacked the Hindus. 5 persons were killed and 30 injured. Police came to the spot immediately and gradually took the situation under control. However, in this process, 8 police personnel got injured too. After the incident, local district administration took some initiatives to succour and relief to the affected families like, financial support of 2 lakh each to the deceased families, job in the Anganwadi centre, ration card to each families, household utensils to the effected families, Duplicate EPIC card and text books for the students.

4. Blast rip apart the ‘Fire-Cracker’ unit in Pingla, West Midnapore, 12 died

A mysterious blast in the house of one Ranjan Maity, packed with explosives, killed at least 12 peoples including 6 minors, and injured 4, in Pingla’s Brahmonbar village in West Midnapore on 6th may, 2015 night. The blast was so powerful that it took the entire house apart and also damaged the neighbouring houses.

Intervention by the Commission

The news was at the front page of most of the leading newspapers on 08.05.2016. The Commission immediately took suo-moto cognizance and asked for a report from D.M. & S.P., Paschim Medinipur.

Redressal

The initial investigation by the local police revealed that the said fire cracker unit did not have any license from any appropriate authority. The labourers, mostly minors, were brought from different villages of Murshidabad to engage them in construction business. The case has now been handed over to CID, West Bengal. A strong departmental action has been taken against the Officer-in-charge, Pingla P.S. He has been suspended and departmental proceedings have been initiated against him. Explanation has been called for from the Circle Inspector. Several raids have been conducted in the locality and numbers of such illegal fire cracker unit have been closed, tons of firecrackers were seized and many were arrested. Higher authority has ordered to maintain strong vigil and continue raids regularly.

5. Bomb explosion in the Assembly of God Church, Dumdum, 2 students injured

A bomb exploded in the compound of Assembly of God Church, Dumdum in the morning of 20th June, 2015. A parish priest from Mother Teresa Church was also present at the church at the time of explosion. Two students, who were cleaning the playground and putting up goal posts, were injured in the explosion

Intervention by the Commission

The sad incident came to the notice of this Commission via the news, "Explosion in Church compound" published in the English daily, "The Telegraph" on 21.06.2015. The Commission asked the Commissioner of Police, Barrackpore Police Commissionerate to investigate the matter and send an action taken report

Redressal

Police has not been able to identify the responsible person (s) for the bomb blast and therefore, no one has been arrested till date.

Study Tours of West Bengal Minorities' Commission

As per power conferred under section 4(1) of West Bengal Minorities' Commission Act 1996, the Commission conducts district study tours in order to (a) evaluate the progress of the development of minorities of West Bengal and review implementation of the policies and Programme of the State Government, (b) monitor the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament or the State Legislature and (c) make recommendations for the effective enforcement and implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of minorities provided by the Central or State Government.

The Study visit team comprises of Hon'ble Chairman and/ or Vice Chairperson and other Hon'ble members of this Commission. Generally, the tour is taken place in two sessions, namely a). Administrative meetings, and b) Sensitization Camps.

In the Administrative meeting, generally held in the 1st Half at the District Head quarter, the members of this Commission meet the entire District Administrative heads and Police Administration. The Commission enquires about the development of minorities and review implementation of different policies and Programme of the State Government in the District, listens to the difficulties faced by the District Administration and advises them accordingly. In the Financial Year 2015-16, the Commission visited 18 districts of West Bengal, namely, Alipurduar, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Uttar Dinajpur Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur, Howrah, Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Murshidabad and Hooghly.

During the 2nd half of the study tour, sensitization camp is organized in order to directly interact with the local minority people, listen to their problems, and sensitizes them about their rights. During the financial year 2015-16, West Bengal Minorities Commission conducted 18 Sensitization camps, one each in Alipurduar, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Uttar Dinajpur Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur, Howrah, Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Murshidabad and Hooghly.

Pictorial View of Study Tours.

South 24 Parganas on 26.05.2015



Nadia on 11.06.2015



Bankura District on 28/07/2015





Birbhum District on 18/08/2015



Uttar Dinaipur on 14/09/2015



Malda District on 15/09/2015



Purba Medinipur on 02.12.2015



Paschim Medinipur District on 09/12/2015



Murshidabad District on 10/02/2016



Celebration of Minorities' Rights Day

Minorities' Rights Day is observed on 18th December every year across the world. The day reminds us the true rights of minorities. Every nation has different ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities groups. It is the duty of State to provide all the rights to the minorities irrespective of their population and religion. There are hundreds of instances in the world when a particular minority group had to suffer because of policy discrimination.

To handle such situations and to stop the occurrence of discrimination against the minorities' United Nations Organizations had adopted and promulgated the 'Declaration on the Rights of Persons belonging to National or Ethnic, Linguistic and Religious Minorities.' United Nation had declared that-"States shall protect the existence of national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities and encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity"

The declaration was a huge step in protecting minorities' groups all over the World and the 18th day of December is observed as 'Minorities' rights Day' all over the world including India.

The National Commission for Minorities' had given the direction upon all states in the year 1992 to observe 18th December every year as Minorities' rights Day.

The West Bengal Minorities' Commission observed 23rd Minorities' Rights Day on 18th December, 2015 at 02:00 p.m. at Ahindra Mancha, Kolkata with the theme, "Minorities' education is vulnerable in present scenario and wave of rising intolerance".

The guests who delivered speeches were:-

- a. Janab Intaj Ali Shah, WBHJS (Retd. Judge), Hon'ble Chairman
- b. Janab Manal Shah Al-Quadery, Vice-Chairman, Urdu Academy
- c. JANab Giasuddin Molla, Hon'ble M.O.S., Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department,
- d. Shri N.F.Tankariwala, Member

Other dignitaries also attended the programme.

There was an assembly inside the auditorium of about 350 comprising all six religious communities.

The pictorial view of the programme is given on the next pages.







Annual Conference of State Minorities' Commissions

Date	: 24 th February, 2016
Time	: 10:00 a.m. onwards
Venue	: Vigyan Bhawan, 2 nd Floor, Room No. 6, New Delhi
Organizer	: National Commission for Minorities
Theme	: 1. Minority Welfare Schemes of Government of India 2. Functioning of State Minorities Commissions- Problems & Challenges

West Bengal Minorities' Commission represented by:-

1. Mr. Intaj Ali Shah, WBHJS (Retd.), Hon'ble Chairman
2. M/s Maria Fernandes, Hon'ble Vice-Chairperson
3. Shri Jaidul Islam Khan, Member
4. Shri Lakhbindar Singh, Member
5. Syed Md. Nizamuddin Ali, Member
6. Shri Ashok Turakhia, Member
7. Shri Bikash Barua, Member
8. Syed Marshood Ali Al Quedri, Member
9. Mrs. Shehnaz Quadery, Member

Inaugurated By Hon'ble Central Minister, Minority Affairs Nazma Heptullah

Welcome Address By Hon'ble Chairman of National Commission for Minorities Naseem Ahmad

Technical Session Presided over by Secretary, Minority Affairs, Central Government Mr. A. Sinha, Mr. P. Davar and Shri Anurag Bajpayee

Points raised by Mr. Itaj Ali Shah, WBHJS (Retd.), Chairman:-

Hon'ble Chairman took 5 (five) minutes time and had eloquently represented the State of West Bengal. He mentioned about different Schemes of Central Government but at the same breath he also sarcastically mentioned that "Make in India" may not be converted into "Hate in India". He also gave emphasis on the followings:-

- 1) Let Secularism be our Foundation
- 2) Let Nationalism be our Politics.
- 3) Let Humanism be our main Religion
- 4) Let Patriotism be our main Ideal.
- 5) Let Communalism be our main Enemy.

He also quoted that our India is Pluralistic society and maximum tolerance is our principle of life. He did not hesitate to mention the contribution of different sects of people in India for development of Great India

A pictorial view of the Conference is given in the next pages:-



Audit Report for the Financial Year 2015-16



L. R. SARKAR & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDITORS' REPORT

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **M/S. WEST BENGAL MINORITIES' COMMISSION** ("the Commission") of Khadya Bhavan, Block A, Ground Floor, 11A, Mirza Galib Street, Kolkata – 700087 which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016, the Statement of Income & Expenditure and Receipt & Payment Account for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information (**Annexure A**).

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Commission. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commission's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- i. in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the Commission as at 31 March 2016;
- ii. in the case of the statement of Income & Expenditure, of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date; and
- iii. in the case of the receipt & payment account, of the receipts & payments for the year ended on that date

Dated: Kolkata.
08.09.2016.

For, L.R.SARKAR & Co.
Chartered Accountants

(L.R. SARKAR, F.C.A.)
FRN – 313030E
Partner - 050981



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BRANCH OFFICE : 180, CO-OPERATIVE COLONY, BOKARO STEEL CITY, BOKARO-827001

L.R.SARKAR & CO

WEST BENGAL MINORITIES' COMMISSION
Khadya Bhavan, Block A, Ground Floor, 11A, Mirza Galib Street, Kolkata - 700087

Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2016

Previous year	Liabilities	Amount (`)	Previous year	Assets	Amount (`)	Amount (`)
	<u>General Fund</u>			<u>Office Equipment</u>		
10,69,257.91	Last Balance	4,42,145.41	100.00	Last Balance		100.00
-	Add:Grant-in-Aid Capitalised			Addition this year		
	During the year	-		<u>Civil & Electrical Works</u>		
-		4,42,145.41		(including Electrical fittings,		
10,69,257.91	Less:Excess of Expenditure			Accessories and		
6,27,112.50	over the Income	32,54,236.00		Air Conditioner)		
		36,96,381.41	100.00	Last Balance		100.00
4,42,145.41	Less:Grant utilised for assets			<u>Computer & Accessories</u>		
	Acquisition			Last Balance	87,150.00	
-		36,96,381.41	87,150.00	Addition this year	21,050.00	
4,42,145.41					1,08,200.00	
				Less:Asset acquired out of		
				Govt. Grant	-	1,08,200.00
				<u>Television (Add this year)</u>	30,900.00	
			100.00	Less:Asset acquired out of	30,800.00	100.00
				Govt. Grant		
			7,035.00	Fax Machine (Addition)		7,035.00
			56,892.00	<u>Furniture & Fixture</u>		
				Last Balance	56,892.00	
				Addition this year	11,200.00	68,092.00
				<u>Water Filter</u>		
			100.00	Last Balance		100.00
				<u>Xerox Machine (Add this year)</u>		100.00
			100.00	Last Balance		
				<u>Cash & Bank Balances</u>		
			2,54,764.91	State Bank of India -Park Street Branch		34,78,027.91
				(A/C.No-10916349935)		
			35,803.50	Cash in Hand		34,526.50
4,42,145.41		36,96,381.41	4,42,145.41			36,96,381.41

Dated:- Kolkata
08.09.2016

Shakeel Ahmed, WBCS (Exe.)
Member-Secretary
W. B. Minorities' Commission
&
Ex-Officio Special Secretary
Govt. of West Bengal

Vide our report of even date.
For, L.R.Sarkar & Co.
Chartered Accountants

(L.R. Sarkar, F.C.A.)
Partner. 050981

L.R.SARKAR & CO
Chartered Accountants

WEST BENGAL MINORITIES' COMMISSION

Khadya Bhavan, Block A, Ground Floor, 11A, Mirza Galib Street, Kolkata - 700087

Receipt & Payment Account for period from 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2016

Previous year	Receipts	Amount (Rs)	Previous year	Payments	Amount (Rs)
	To Opening Balance		38,685.00	By Office Expenses	19,315.00
			43,067.00	By Sitting Fees	16,800.00
10,44,155.91	Cash at Bank	2,54,764.91	5,81,022.00	By Car Hiring Charges	6,23,743.00
24,402.00	Cash in Hand	35,803.50	97,943.00	By Telephone Charges	1,01,915.00
			34,928.00	By Postage	41,550.00
12,39,000.00	To Grant in Aid received	51,42,166.00	2,92,059.50	By Printing & Stationery	2,23,094.00
			7,490.00	By Paper & periodicals	9,521.00
			3,41,356.00	By Travelling & Conveyance	2,63,509.00
			29,254.00	By Minorities Right Day	1,05,384.00
			25,390.00	By Meeting Expenses	5,315.00
				By Miscellaneous tea & Cleaning expenses	44,921.00
			49,461.00		
			4,750.00	By Exgratia	11,660.00
			1,78,828.00	By Salary & wages	1,40,160.00
			18,200.00	By A.M.C.Charges	27,400.00
			87,050.00	By Computer & Accessories	21,050.00
				By Xerox Charges	2,252.00
			48,979.00	By Fuel Charges	1,33,717.00
			70,500.00	By Annul Report Charges	1,12,500.00
			56,792.00	By Furniture & Fixture	11,200.00
			7,035.00	By Fax Machin Purchase	
				By Television	
			4,000.00	By Audit Fees	4,560.00
				By Legal Charges	500.00
			200.00	By Bank Charges	114.00
			2,54,764.91	By Cash at Bank	34,78,027.91
			35,803.50	By Cash in Hand	34,526.50
<u>23,07,557.91</u>		<u>54,32,734.41</u>	<u>23,07,557.91</u>		<u>54,32,734.41</u>

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2016

Previous year	Expenditure	Amount (`)	Previous year	Income	Amount (`)
38,685.00	To Office Expenses	19,315.00	12,39,000.00	By Govt. Revenue Grant	51,42,166.00
43,067.00	To Sitting Fees	16,800.00			
5,81,022.00	To Car Hiring Charges	6,23,743.00			
97,943.00	To Telephone Charges	1,01,915.00			
34,928.00	To Postage	41,550.00	6,27,112.00	By Excess of expenditure over income	-
2,92,059.00	To Printing & Stationery	2,23,094.00			
7,490.00	To Paper & periodicals	9,521.00			
3,41,356.00	To Travelling & Conveyance	2,63,509.00			
29,254.00	To Minorities Right Day	1,05,384.00			
4,750.00	To Exgratia	11,660.00			
1,78,828.00	To Salary & wages	1,40,160.00			
25,390.00	To Meeting Expenses	5,315.00			
49,461.00	To Miscellaneous tea & Cleaning expenses	44,921.00			
18,200.00	To A.M.C.Charges	27,400.00			
48,979.00	To Fuel Charges	1,33,717.00			
70,500.00	To Annul Report Charges	1,12,500.00			
	To Xerox Charges	2,252.00			
4,000.00	To Audit Fees	4,560.00			
200.00	To Bank Charges	114.00			
	To Legal Charges	500.00			
	To Excess of Income over Expenditure	32,54,236.00			
<u>18,66,112.00</u>		<u>51,42,166.00</u>	<u>18,66,112.00</u>		<u>51,42,166.00</u>

Dated:- Kolkata
08.09.2016

Shakeel Ahmed, WBCS (Exe.)
Member-Secretary
W. B. Minorities' Commission
&
Ex-Officio Special Secretary
Govt. of West Bengal




Vide our report of even date
For, L. R. SARKAR & CO.
Chartered Accountants

(L. R. SARKAR, F.C.A.)
Partner (50981)
FRN - 313030E

Annexure – “A”

Notes on account and significant accounting policies, forming part of our Audit Report for the year ended 31.03.2016.

1. Total Govt. Grants received are utilized for both revenue and capital expenditure. Grants utilised for acquisition of various assets have been adjusted in the year in which assets have been acquired and duly accounted for, keeping a nominal value to reflect the existence of a particular asset in the Balance Sheet.
2. The remaining grants has been utilised for revenue purpose and duly accounted for in the current year.
3. Accounting treatment in respect of Govt. Grants have been done as prescribed in AS-12.
4. Bank Balance confirmation certificate not obtained.


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Member-Secretary
W. B. Minorities' Commission
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