

18th 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 such 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)