

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:237  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.1999  
15-POINT PROGRAMME FOR MINORITIES .  
BAJU BAN RIYAN

**Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have announced 15-point welfare programme for the welfare of minorities; and  
(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
SMT. MANEKA GANDHI

(a)&(b) The Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities drawn in May, 1983 is an on-going Programme and its implementation is done by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and concerned Ministries and Departments of Central Government. It is monitored by the Central Government on the basis of periodic reports.

The Points contained in the Programme are in the nature of guidelines to be followed by the Central and State Governments and Union Territories.

A paper containing the points in the programme are laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.237 FOR 14.12.1999

15-POINT PROGRAMME FOR WELFARE OF MINORITIES

**I. COMMUNAL RIOTS**

1. In the areas which have been identified as communally sensitive and riot prone, District and Police Officials of the highest known efficiency, impartiality and secular record must be posted. In such areas and even elsewhere, the prevention of communal tension should be one of the primary duties of DM and SP. Their performances in this regard should be an important factor in determining the promotion prospects.
2. Good work done in this regard by District and Police Officials should be rewarded.
3. Severe action should be taken against all those who incite communal tensions or take part in violence
4. Special court or courts specifically earmarked to try communal offences should be set up so that offenders are brought to book speedily.
5. Victims of communal riots should be given immediate relief and provided prompt and adequate financial assistance for their rehabilitation. 6. Radio & TV must also help in restoring confidence, communal harmony and peace in such affected areas.
7. It is unfortunate that certain sections of the Press sometimes indulge intendentious reporting and publication of objectionable and inflammatory material, which may incite communal tension. Editors, printers, publishers and other concerned will cooperate in finding a way to avoid publication of such material.

**II. RECRUITMENT TO STATE AND CENTRAL SERVICES**

8. In the recruitment of police personnel, State Governments should be advised to give special consideration to minorities. For this purpose, the composition of selection of Committees should be representative.
9. The Central Government should take similar action in the recruitment of personnel to the Central Police Forces.
10. Large scale employment opportunities are provided by the Railways, Nationalised Banks and Public Sector Enterprises. In these cases also the concerned departments should ensure that special considerations is given to recruitment from minority communities.
11. In many areas recruitment is done through competitive examinations. Often minority groups have been handicapped in taking advantage of the education system to compete on equal terms in such examinations. To help them overcome these handicaps step should be taken to encourage the starting of coaching classes in minority educational institutions to train persons to compete successfully in the these examinations.

12. The acquisition of technical skills by those minorities who are today lagging behind would also help in national development. Arrangements should be made to set up ITI's and polytechnics by Government or private agencies in predominantly minority areas to encourage admission in such institutions of adequate number of persons belonging to these communities.

### III. OTHER MEASURES

13. In various development programmes including the 20-Point Programme, care should be taken to see that minorities secure in a fair and adequate measure the benefits flowing therefrom. In the various committees, which are set up to oversee the implementation of such programmes, members of these communities should be actively involved.

14. Apart from the above general issues there are various local problems which develop into needless irritants to minorities. For instance encroachment of Wakf properties and on graveyards have led to protests and grievances in some places. Suitable steps should be taken to deal with such problems on an expeditious and satisfactory basis.

15. Problems relating to minorities need to be attended to on a continuing basis so that apprehensions are allayed and genuine grievances redressed. To facilitate this a special cell will be created in the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with matters relating to minorities.