

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2254
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITIES
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to formulate a comprehensive plan for the educational and economic development of minorities; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) & (b) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) is providing loans to individuals belonging to minority communities living below double the poverty line for self-employment ventures at concessional rate of interest. A new scheme of Educational Loans has been introduced by NMDFC with effect from 1st January 2003. Under this scheme, a loan of up-to Rs.75,000/- is available to poor students belonging to minorities for pursuing short-term professional courses at concessional interest rate of 3 % per annum. The Ministry is implementing a scheme of coaching for weaker sections among minorities and other backward classes to enable them to compete on equal terms with other candidates in competitive examinations for various jobs, and admission to professional/technical institutions. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation is formulating and implementing schemes for benefit of educationally backward minorities. Ministry of Human resource Development is implementing Area Intensive and Madrasa Modernisation Programme for educationally backward minorities.

Besides, benefits of all the schemes being implemented by the government for economic and educational development are available to minorities also.