

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:258
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
15-POINT PROGRAMME FOR WELFARE OF MINORITIES
GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing 15-Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities;
- (b) if so, the details of its implementation, item-wise; (
- (c) whether there is any proposal to recast the 15-point programme for the minorities afresh; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be finalized?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to part(a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 258 for 18.12.2003 regarding '15-Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities' asked by Shri G.M.Banatwalla.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 15-Point Programme is in the nature of guidelines for the States/UTs and Central Government and aims at giving a sense of security and for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of minority communities. Details of its implementation are as under:

i) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing Points 1 to 5 and 8-9 of the Programme. In this regard, the MHA has set up the Rapid Action Force charged with the special task of quelling communal riots. The MHA has also issued guidelines for promotion of communal harmony. There is a provision for assistance to the children of families affected by communal violence under the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) set up under the MHA. Besides, all the State Governments have been advised to give special consideration to minorities in the recruitment to the State Police Forces and to ensure that the composition of the Selection Committees is representative and steps are taken for proper representation of minorities in the State Police Forces/Armed Battalion. The Central Police Forces have also been asked to ensure proper representation of minorities by making the minority community candidates aware of the employment opportunities/ recruitment programmes. The Recruitment Boards for Central Police Forces send information to minority community institutions/organizations to encourage the candidates to apply for recruitment in Central Police Forces.

ii) In respect of Point 6 & 7, Prasar Bharti have framed Code and Policy Guidelines for official media units which contain provisions exclusively for news broadcast relating to riots and communal disturbances.

iii) In respect of Point 10, instructions have been issued for having a member belonging to minority communities in Selection Committees/ Boards constituted for recruitment for 10 or more vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts/services under the Government of India and public sector undertakings including public sector banks.

iv) In respect of Point 11, a scheme of pre-examination coaching classes for weaker sections including minorities is being implemented by this Ministry to prepare the candidates from minority communities for successfully competing in the examinations for recruitment in services and admission in professional courses. A similar coaching scheme is also being implemented by the University Grants Commission for weaker sections amongst educationally backward minority communities in Universities/Colleges.

v) In respect of Point 12, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education is implementing Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernisation Programme in 325 Community Development Blocks with minority concentration.

vi) In respect of Point 13, all the State Governments/UTs Administrations have been advised to ensure representation of minorities in district level Committees constituted for implementation of the 20-Point Programme.

vii) In respect of Point 14, all the State Governments/UTs Administrations have been advised to make efforts to remove the encroachment on the Wakf Properties.

viii) In respect of Point 15, Minorities Cells has been created in Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

(c) & (d) Recasting of the 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is currently being undertaken. As it requires consultation with several organizations, it is not possible to indicate time by which it will be finalized.