

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004
EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether Human Development Report, 2004 has emphasized the need for empowerment of minorities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken for empowerment of minorities in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.348 for answer on 19.8.2004 raised by Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, M.P.

(a) & (b) The Human Development Report, 2004 does not mention the need for empowerment of minorities in the country.

(c) In furtherance of the commitment to promote modern and technical education and economic development of socially and economically backward sections amongst minorities, the following schemes are in operation:

i) Pre-examination coaching to the SCs, OBCs and Minorities through Universities and NGOs.

ii) Maulana Azad Education Foundation funds minority educational institutions for construction of schools, hostels, laboratories, etc. It also provides scholarships to meritorious girl students of minority communities.

(iii) Sections of the minorities who have been declared as OBCs also avail of pre and post-matric scholarships and also hostel facilities and vocational training through NGOs.

(iv) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing a Scheme of Area Intensive and Madrasa Modernization Programme with the objective of developing educational infrastructure and modernization of Madrasa Education.

(v) The Ministry of Human Resource Development also implements a scheme of Financial Assistance for Appointment of Urdu Teachers and Grant of Honorarium for teaching Urdu in States and UTs.

(vi) National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing various schemes for promotion of Urdu language.

(vii) The sections of the minorities who have been declared as OBCs also avail of Pre and Post Matric Scholarships and also hostel facilities and vocational training through NGOs.

(viii) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides low interest loans for self-employment projects and also for pursuing technical/professional courses.

The minorities also avail of all the development schemes being implemented by the Government for all citizens.