

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2382  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007  
WELFARE OF MUSLIM WOMEN  
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether leading Muslim women academics and activists has criticized the Sachar Committee report for overlooking the specific problems of Muslim women as appeared in 'The Hindu' dated February 28, 2007;
- (b) if so, whether there is no mention of Muslim women in the report
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the welfare of the Muslim women;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to set up Committee to address their concerns; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (A.R. ANTULAY)

- (a) : "The Hindu" dated 28th January, 2007 and not 28th February, 2007 carried a news item to this effect.
- (b) and (c) : The report of the Sachar Committee , laid in the Rajya Sabha on 30.11.2006, deals with the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India, including Muslim women;
- (d) : A number of steps have already been taken for the welfare of women and girls belonging to the minorities, including Muslims. Some of these are the scholarship scheme of Maulana Azad Education Foundation for meritorious girl students belonging to minority communities; provision of 75% seats in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas for girl students belonging to SC/ST/Minorities in educationally backward blocks of the country; vocational training schemes of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation for Economic upliftment of women belonging to minority communities.
- (e) : No, Sir.
- (f) : Does not arise.