

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:127
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
CONFERENCE ON STATE MINORITIES COMMISSIONS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether a conference of State Minorities Commissions was held in New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the issues discussed therein and the outcome there of;
- (c) whether there were demands to provide fair share to minorities in the Government jobs;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps being taken for the socio-economic development of minorities?

Answer

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

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

Statement referred to in reply to narts(a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 127 to be answered on 30# November, 2006.

(a),(b) and (c): The National Commission for Minorities convened the 5th Annual Conference of State Minorities Commissions at New Delhi on 2nd November, 2006. Amongst the issues discussed in the Conference were the following:-

- (i) Minorities should feel safe and get a fair and reasonable share of development. The benefits of various Government schemes should flow equitably to the minorities and a certain proportion of development projects be located in minority concentration districts.
- (ii) Communal peace and harmony should be maintained.
- (iii) Special tribunals should be set up to deal with communal offences.
- (iv) The victims of communal carnage should be given adequate financial support for rehabilitation.
- (v) Minorities should get a fair share in Central and State Government jobs. The minority youth should be provided with skills to get their legitimate share in employment, both in the public and private sectors.
- (vi) The main factor responsible for the socio-economic backwardness of the minority communities, particularly the Muslim community, is the lack of access to the common school system. This is particularly true in the case of Muslim girls. Therefore, concrete schemes for setting up secondary and higher secondary schools in the blocks and districts having a predominantly Muslim population, should be implemented for Muslim girls. Widening of access to professional and technical education should be a priority area in educational programmes.
- (vii) Government should monitor implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities.
- (viii) The scholarship schemes funded by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation should be enlarged to cover the post-matric level also.
- (ix) The Wakf Board properties should be utilized to open educational institutions.
- (x) The status of the National Commission for Minorities should be raised to a constitutional body.

(d)&(e): The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, announced in June, 2006 addresses many of these concerns. The objectives of the Programme are

- (a) enhancing opportunities for education;
- (b) ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment, and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs;
- (c) improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development schemes;

and

(d) prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence. The programme envisages, wherever possible, earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays for minorities under schemes included in the programme. At the Central level, the implementation of the programme is to be monitored, once in six months, by a Committee of Secretaries and thereafter a report has to be submitted to the Union Cabinet. The State Governments have also been advised by the Prime Minister to set up a similar mechanism at the State level so that the implementation of the programme receives due attention at the highest level. Detailed guidelines have been sent to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations including constitution of State and District level Committees for monitoring the implementation of the programme.

Apart from the above, the corpus fund of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation is being enhanced from Rs.100 to Rs.200 crores so as to enable it to enlarge its activities.

The Constitution (One hundred and third Amendment) Bill, 2004, to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities, has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004.

Government have already introduced the Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005 in Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 2005.