

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2362
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006
WELFARE MEASURES FOR BUDDHISTS
Rijju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any measures for the welfare of the Buddhists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any complaints regarding the census related to Buddhists population; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R.ANTULAY):

(a) and (b) Recently, Government has announced Prime Minister's New 15 point programme for the Welfare of Minorities, which provide for enhanced opportunities for education, equitable share in income and employment improving the conditions of living of minorities and ensuring communal harmony. Wherever, possible 15% of the targets and outlays are earmarked for minorities. Besides, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation provides loans to minorities on concessional rates for term loan, micro financing, educational loan etc. Maulana Azad Educational Foundation also has educational schemes for minorities. Buddhists are one of the minorities notified under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 and benefits of the welfare schemes for minorities are also available to them.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.