

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:799

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010

EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS OF MUSLIMS

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Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is a genuine problem of educational backwardness among Muslims;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the educational facilities of those Muslims who are backward and are living below the poverty line;
- (c) whether there is any body to oversee the various schemes, plans and programmes of the Government meant for the upliftment of minorities in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) The Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational Status of Muslim Community of India (popularly known as Sachar Committee) had drawn attention towards the low participation of Muslims in education.

(b) The recommendations of the Sachar Committee were considered by the Government and a multi-pronged strategy, including programme specific interventions under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, to address the educational backwardness of the Muslim community was adopted. The steps taken by the Government to address the problems of educational backwardness of minorities, including Muslims, include the following:

- i) Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (KGBV) scheme, criteria of educationally backward blocks has been revised with effect from 1st April 2008 to cover blocks with less than 30% rural female literacy and in urban areas with less than national average of female literacy (53.67%: Census 2001). Under the scheme, out of 2573 KGBVs, 453 have been sanctioned in blocks having a substantial minority population.
- ii) Universalization of access to quality education at secondary stage called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been approved. The scheme envisages preference to minority concentration areas in opening of Government schools. State Governments have been advised to accord priority to setting up new / upgraded schools in minority concentration areas while appraising proposals under this scheme.
- iii) One model college each would be set up in 374 educationally backward districts (EBDs) of the country. Of 374 EBDs, 67 are in identified minority concentration districts.
- iv) Under the Sub-Mission on polytechnics, financial assistance is provided to the States/ UTs for setting up of polytechnics in un-served and under-served districts. 57 districts out of 90 minority concentration districts are eligible for consideration under the scheme. So far, Rs.86.66 crore have been released for setting up polytechnics in 35 minority concentration districts.
- v) Preference is given by University Grants Commission for provision of girls' hostels in universities and colleges in the areas where there is concentration of minorities especially Muslims. UGC has approved/sanctioned 233 Women's Hostels during 11th Five Year Plan in 90 Minority Concentration Districts.
- vi) The Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernization Programme has been revised and bifurcated into two schemes. A Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) has been launched with an allocation of Rs.325 crore for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. It contains provisions for better teachers' salary, increased assistance for books, teaching aids and computers, and introduction of vocational subjects, etc. The other scheme, which provides financial assistance for Infrastructure Development of Private aided/unaided Minority Institutes (IDMI), has been launched with allocation of Rs.125 crore for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.
- vii) For subsequent access to higher education, the certificates issued by the State Madarsa Boards, whose certificates and qualifications have been granted equivalence by the corresponding State Boards, would be considered equivalent by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council of Board of School Education in India (COBSE) or/and by any other school examination board.
- viii) Academies for professional development of Urdu medium teachers have been set up at three Central Universities namely, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Milia Islamia University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University. 3779 teachers have been trained.
- ix) Financial assistance is given for appointment of Urdu teachers in a Government school in any locality where more than 25% of the population is from Urdu speaking community. The financial assistance would be based on the prevailing salary structure of Urdu teachers employed with schools of the State Government. Honorarium is also admissible to part-time Urdu teachers.

- x) The States/UTs have been advised to undertake community based mobilization campaigns in areas having a substantial population of Muslims. In 2009-10, 18 districts having a substantial minority population were covered under Saakshar Bharat.
- xi) Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) are imparting vocational training in 33 out of the 88 Muslim dominated districts in the country.
- xii) Thirty five universities have started centers for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- (xiii) Three scholarship schemes for minority communities namely, pre-matric scholarship from class-I to X, post-matric scholarship from class XI to PhD and merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels have been launched. Further, a fellowship scheme called Maulana Azad National Fellowship scheme for M.Phil and Ph.D. scholars has been launched.
- xiv) The corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) is now Rs.425.00 crore. MAEF gives grants-in-aid for infrastructure development of educational institutions and scholarships to meritorious girls in classes-XI and XII.

(c) to (e). The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for a close monitoring mechanism. At the Centre, the status of implementation has been reviewed on half yearly basis since 2006-07. The programme envisages having a similar monitoring mechanism at the State and District level. Besides, the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) and National Monitoring Committee on Minorities' Education (NMCME), both under aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, oversee the implementation of the schemes and programmes meant for educational advancement of minorities.