

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:75

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

EDUCATION AMONG MINORITY COMMUNITIES

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Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of educational backwardness amongst the minority communities including Muslims in the country at present;
- (b) the number of girls belonging to minority communities who have been awarded scholarships by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; (
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government to promote education amongst these communities;
- (d) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the implementation of various schemes being undertaken by the Government for the welfare of the minority communities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER, MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts(a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 75 for answer on 04th August, 2011.

(a): Literacy rate is one of the most important indicators of educational status. As per 2001 census figures, the literacy rate of minority community are as follows:

Religion Literacy Rate

	Literacy Rate (Males)		Literacy Rate (Females)	Average
Muslims	67.6	50.01	59.1	
Christians	84.4	76.2	80.3	
Sikhs	75.2	63.1	69.4	
Buddhists	83.1	61.7	72.7	
Zoroastrians	NA	NA	NA	
All India	75.3	53.7	64.8	

Muslims have a lower literacy rate as compared to all India average for both males and females.

(b): The Maulana Azad Education Foundation under the scheme of Maulana Azad Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students have awarded scholarship to 44,460 girls belonging to minority communities, during the last three years. The state-wise details are at Annex I. The last date for receipt of applications for the current year is 30th September, 2011.

(c): The Prime Minister's new 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities focuses on enhancing opportunities for education amongst other things. Under this programme, the following issues are being addressed to promote education among minority communities:

- (i) Improving access to school education.
- (ii) Greater resources for teaching Urdu.
- (iii) Modernizing Madrasa Education.
- (iv) Award of Scholarships to meritorious students from minority communities.
- (v) Improving educational infrastructure through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation.

Maulana Azad Education Foundation awards scholarships for girl students and extends financial assistance for infrastructural development in educational institutions run by Non-Government Organizations.

Further, under Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the persons belonging to the minority communities, assistance is provided to students by way of coaching for various jobs and for various entrance examinations.

Besides, a Special Area Development Programme, known as Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) is being implemented since 2008-09. Since then, 12140 additional class rooms (ACRs), 637 school buildings, 28 Industrial Training Institutes and 210 hostels for students have been approved for construction in several Minority Concentration Districts.

(d): Yes, Madam.

(e): To ensure that the benefits of the schemes go to the intended beneficiaries, Ministry of Minority Affairs reviews the overall progress under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities on a quarterly basis with the nodal officers of the other Ministries. The progress is reviewed once in six months by the Committee of Secretaries and thereafter, a report is submitted to the Union Cabinet. Monitoring and review is done at the State level and at district levels through the State Level Committees and the District Level Committees constituted for implementation of the Prime Minister's new 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and the Deputy Commissioner/Collector respectively.

In addition the Ministry of Minority Affairs has introduced the system of National Level Monitors (NLMs). These NLMs visit the Districts periodically and give their report.