

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1042

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012

IIM-AHMEDABAD STUDY ON SACHAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of a recently released study by IIM-Ahmedabad providing an update to Sachar Committee Report relating to education and employment amongst muslims in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the study suggests that there exists a perception of unfairness and discrimination amongst muslim community and that they qualify for reservations more than OBCs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the report has pointed out that the educational levels of muslims are very low with a high drop-out rate at the middle school level; and
- (f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING)

(a) to (b): The Government is aware of the working paper series of the IIM Ahmedabad on 'Education and Employment among Muslims in India: An Analysis of Patterns and Trends' by Shri Rakesh Basant, Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. The opinion(s), view(s) and conclusion(s) expressed in the working paper are those of the authors and not that of IIM-Ahmedabad. However, the key observations on Muslims' participation in Education and Employment are given below:

- i) As compared to other religions, Muslims have a higher perception of unfairness;
- ii) Participation of Muslims is relatively low in the education space, particularly in urban areas, but has improved in recent years;
- iii) The participation of Muslims in higher education is particularly poor but once they cross the school education and other factors that affect participation in higher education, the deficits for Muslims decline significantly;
- iv) Household endowments alongwith location play a critical role in determining participation of Muslims in education. The community does not fully appreciate the rewards of education;
- v) Muslims are predominantly engaged in self-employment to avoid discrimination; and
- vi) The need to enhance diversity in difference spaces is urgent. For this an acceptable, transparent diversity index should be evolved; etc.

(c) to (d): The working paper states that "if reservation is to be extended beyond Dalits, then Muslims have a more compelling case than the Hindu OBC!"

(e): The working paper points out that the dropout rates are among the highest for Muslims and this seems to go up significantly after middle school.

(f): The observations made in the said paper on education and employment of Muslims in the country has been dealt with in detail by the Sachar Committee in its report. To improve the educational condition of Minorities, including Muslims, the Government has taken the following steps for Educational empowerment:

- i) Implementation of Scholarship schemes for minorities (30% scholarships are earmarked for minority girls.);
- ii) Opening of new Primary and Upper Primary Schools, construction of of Primary and Upper Primary Schools and additional class rooms in areas having substantial Minority population;
- iii) Opening of girls only schools and residential Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in areas having substantial Minority

population;

iv) Setting up of Womens' Hostel in higher education institutions in minority concentrated areas; and

v) Implementation of Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasa and Scheme for Infrastructure Development of Minority Institutes Granting equivalence of qualifications /certificates of the Madrasa Boards to that of Secondary/Sr. Secondary qualifications.