

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4395

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012

EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS AMONG MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS

De Dr. Ratna

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey or study to know about the reasons of educational backwardness among the Muslims and Christians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes implemented by the Government to improve the educational facilities of minorities particularly those who live below the poverty line?

Answer

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

(a) and (b). The Government has not conducted specific survey for finding out the reasons for educational backwardness amongst Christians. However, the High Level Committee constituted by the Prime Minister's Office, popularly known as Sachar Committee, in its report submitted in November 2006 has identified reasons for educational backwardness amongst Muslims, which include poverty, low perceived returns from education, poor access to schools, poor quality of teaching etc. Further, National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has also identified factors for low participation of Muslims in higher education which include family's expectation to take up early job and value for traditional profession in the family.

(c). To facilitate education of all notified minorities including those who live below the poverty line, the Ministry of Minority Affairs awards Pre-matric Scholarship, Post-matric Scholarship, Merit-cum-Means Based Scholarship and Maulana Azad National Fellowship to eligible and recommended students/candidates from notified minority communities. Further, Maulana Azad Educational Foundation awards Maulana Azad National Scholarship for meritorious girls and implements a programme of Grant-in Aid to Non-Governmental Organizations for development of educational infrastructure for the same target group. In addition, National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides educational loans at concessional rates of interest to facilitate job oriented education amongst minorities living below double the poverty line.