

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1614  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013  
POVERTY RATIO OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY  
Krishnaswamy Shri M.

**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the 12th Five Year Plan aims at appropriately addressing perceptions of discrimination and alienation of the muslim community;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the poverty ratio for muslims is 33.9 per cent in urban areas, especially in States like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and West Bengal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the corrective steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. An important concern vis-à-vis the Muslim community is the perception of discrimination and alienation. Innovative steps are proposed in the 12th Five Year Plan to reduce this perception such as expanding facilitators in Muslim concentration villages and towns to act as interfaces between the community and the state institutions. Youth leadership programmes are also be initiated to strengthen this process. The 12th Five Year Plan document envisages minorities' empowerment through their active participation in the developmental process as participants and not as passive recipients of developmental benefits. The Twelfth Plan vision for faster, more inclusive and sustainable growth mandates that bold and creative affirmative action must be undertaken to ensure inclusion of different socio-religious communities and to ensure fulfillment of their social, economic and political needs.

(c) & (d): The draft 12th Five Year Plan document approved by National Development Council on 27th December, 2012 recognizes that the poverty ratio for Muslims was 33.9 percent in urban areas, especially on account of states such as Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and West Bengal. The poverty ratio as on 2009-10 in Uttar Pradesh is 49.5%, in Gujarat 42.4%, in Bihar 56.5% and in West Bengal 34.9%. The reason being attributed for this is the low literacy rate and work participation rate amongst Muslims compared to the other minority communities.

(e): The Ministry has proposed a Skill Development scheme for minorities during the 12th Plan to enhance the potential for employment and improve the economic situation of minorities including Muslim community. Moreover, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) also gives concessional loans for self employment and income generating activities, implements a vocational training scheme to impart skills to targeted beneficiaries and also gives marketing assistance to artisans to exhibit and sell their products. The Priority Sector Lending has also helped minorities to secure hassle free loans. These steps will be instrumental in economic development of minorities.