

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3060
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
MUSLIM WOMEN
Kishor Shri Kamal

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the muslim women are lagging behind from the mainstream of development in the Bahraich, Deoria and Gorakhpur districts of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the status of the muslim women as per the norm of literacy and line of poverty in the said districts along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the efforts being made by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per available information, due to Socio-Economic factors, the Muslim women have low literacy rates compared to National level for literacy for females in Uttar Pradesh including the districts of Bahraich, Deoria and Gorakhpur. Further, the incidence of poverty among Muslims including Muslim women in the State of Uttar Pradesh is high.

(c) Ministry of Minority Affairs has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for development of minorities including minority women. For educational empowerment, Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarships are awarded. Under these schemes, minimum 30% seats are reserved for girls. In addition, Maulana Azad Education Foundation, an autonomous body under the Ministry, provides scholarships to minority girls studying in class XI and XII exclusively. Further, under Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme and Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for minorities, educational infrastructure like schools, girls' hostels etc., Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics etc., are constructed. In addition, the scheme of "Nai Roshni", the Leadership Development of Minority Women, is also being implemented since 2012-13 to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. To meet the needs of Micro-Finance, a specific scheme of "Mahila Samridhi Yojana" is being implemented by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation. Recently, the Ministry has formulated a scheme of "Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)" for Skill Development of Minorities, wherein 30% of the seats have been reserved for minority girls.