

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:16
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013
BENEFITS TO MINORITIES
Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a recent report of the Council for Social Development, most of the benefits intended for the minorities are being cornered by either the majority population or non-Muslim minorities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) launched by the Government has also failed and the benefits of the scheme have reached only 30 per cent of the Muslim population in targeted areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the concrete measures taken by the Government to address the condition of minorities in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN^-)

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

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 16 to be answered on 05.12.2013

(a) & (b): In chapter titled 'Government's Commitment towards Development of Muslims – A Post-Sachar Assessment of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana' of Social Development Report 2012 of Council for Social Development, it has been mentioned that a major share of benefits is diverted to non-Muslims and non-minority areas. However, this is not a factually correct assessment of the schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Under Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), in 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) identified for the implementation of the scheme during 11th Plan, 90% of the target minorities belong to Muslim community as per the data of Census 2001. Similarly, under scholarship schemes of this Ministry, namely Pre-matric Scholarship, Post-matric Scholarship and Merit-cum-means Based Scholarship Schemes, about 78% scholarships have been awarded to the students belonging to Muslim community during 11th Five Year Plan. Remaining scholarships have been awarded to the students of other notified minority communities. In other individual beneficiary oriented schemes of this Ministry also, target is the people belonging to minority communities.

(c) & (d): MsDP was launched in 2008 to address the development deficits of backward minority concentration areas as a follow up to Sachar Committee recommendations. So far, projects with central share of Rs. 6020.14 crore have been approved under MsDP to create socio-economic infrastructure and provide basic amenities in the identified MCDs. The Guidelines for MsDP provide that priority should be given to projects that focus on villages/blocks/localities, having substantial minority population. Most of the projects taken under MsDP are for creation of community assets and as stated above 90% of the target minorities in the identified MCDs belong to Muslim community as per the data of Census 2001. Further, to ensure the intended benefits are passed on to the targeted minority population including Muslims, the Ministry has restructured MsDP for sharper focus on minority concentration areas by making blocks/towns as unit of planning and implementation. A total of 710 blocks and 66 towns have been identified for implementation of MsDP during 12th Five Year Plan.

(e): The Ministry of Minority Affairs has taken the following initiatives for the welfare of the minority communities in the country:

(i) For the educational empowerment of minorities, the Ministry is implementing three scholarship schemes, namely, Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-means Based Scholarship Schemes, covering students from Class 1st to Ph.D. In addition, the Ministry is implementing Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme for students of M.Phil and Ph.D. Also, Free Coaching and Allied Scheme, Support for Students clearing Prelims and Schemes of Maulana Azad Education Foundation based on the corpus fund granted by the Govt., have been implemented for the benefit of minority communities.

(ii) The Ministry is implementing Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities in the areas with substantial minority population.

(iii) For economic empowerment of minorities, the Ministry is implementing 'Seekho aur Kamao' – Scheme for Skill Development of Minorities, schemes of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for extending credit for self employment, income generating ventures, educational loans for facilitating job oriented education for minorities and scheme for Grant-in-aid to

State Channelising Agencies of NMDFC.

(iv) For empowerment of minority women, 'Nai Roshani' – Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women is being implemented.

(v) The Parliament has enacted the Wakf (Amendment) Act, 2013 to amend the Wakf Act, 1995. The Ministry is also implementing a scheme for Computerisation of records of State Wakf Boards. Government has decided to set up National Wakf Development Corporation (NWDC) to act as a specialist financial and development institution to develop and provide financial service for development of Wakf properties to enhance their income for the benefit of the Muslim community.

(vi) The Ministry has launched a new scheme called 'Jiyo Parsi' for containing the decline of population of Parsi community.

Further, the Ministry has also launched the PM's New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities which either earmarks 15% of targets/ outlays for minorities in different schemes of the Govt. or provides for specific monitoring of flow of funds/benefits to minorities or minority concentration areas.