

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1317
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
LIVING STANDARD OF MUSLIMS
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per a recent National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) study report, Muslims have the lowest living standard with the average per capita expenditure of just Rs. 32.66 in a day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government in order to improve their living standard and per capita income and expenditure along with the details of funds allocated, released and utilised during each of the last three years Scheme and State-wise;
- (d) the target fixed and achieved during the said period, Scheme and State-wise;and
- (e) the efforts being made by the Government to improve their living standards?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) Report on "Employment and Unemployment Situation Among Major Religious Groups in India (July, 2009 - June, 2010)", in 2009-10, the average monthly per capita consumer expenditure, which is usually taken to reflect the living standard of household, was Rs.980/- (Rs.833/- for rural areas and Rs.1272/- for urban areas) for Muslim community, which was lowest among all the minority communities.

(c) to (e) Various schemes are being implemented by this Ministry for the welfare of notified minorities for their educational and economic empowerment, area-development programmes for addressing the development deficit of minority concentration areas and other minority specific issues like Wakf, etc. The details are given as under:

(i) Multi sectoral Development Programme (MsDP)- Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been implemented in 90 identified Minority Concentration districts (MCDs) of the country from 2008-09 to 2012-13. These districts were identified on the basis of substantial minority population and backwardness parameters as per census 2001. MsDP has been restructured to expand its coverage and make it more effective and focused on the targeted minorities. In the restructured MsDP the unit area of planning has been changed to blocks/towns instead of district for sharper focus on the minority concentration areas. The programme has now identified 710 Blocks & 66 towns for implementation during 12th Plan. Further, clusters of contiguous minority concentration villages (having at least 50% minority population) would also be identified. The State-wise details of infrastructural facilities taken up created under MsDP since its inception upto 30.11.13 is enclosed at annexure-I. The year -wise and State/UT-wise details of fund released/utilised is enclosed at annexure -II.

(ii) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme- Under this Scheme, scholarships are awarded to minority students up to class X, who have secured not less than 50% marks in the previous final examination and the annual income of their parents/ guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students. The details are given at annexure-III.

(iii) Post-matric Scholarship Scheme- Under this Scheme, scholarships are awarded to minority students from class XI onwards who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and the annual income of whose parents/ guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs.2.00 lakh. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students. The details is given at annexure-IV.

(iv) Merit-cum Means based Scholarship- The Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme provides financial assistance to the poor and meritorious minority students pursuing professional studies at graduate and post-graduate levels. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students. The details is given at annexure-V.

(v) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme- Under this scheme candidates belonging to the minority community are provided financial assistance for coaching in Government and the private sector institutes for imparting free coaching/training for Competitive Exams, Information Technology, remedial coaching and other employment oriented courses. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students. The details is given at annexure-VI.

(vi) Maulana Azad National Fellowship- The objective of the Fellowship is to provide integrated five year fellowships in the form of

financial assistance to minority students to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The Fellowship covers all Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students. The details is given at annexure-VII.

(vii) Equity Contribution to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)- Under this scheme, Government contributes equity capital to NMDFC for implementation of its schemes at concessional rates of interest which are viz. micro financing scheme, term loan, educational loans, skill development and Mahila Samridhi Yojana etc.

(viii) Grant-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF): Under this scheme, Grant-in-aid are released to MAEF towards its Corpus Fund. From the interest of the Corpus Fund, MAEF releases the Grant-in-aid to the minority institutions for infrastructure development and distribution of scholarship to the minority girl students studying in classes XI and XII. The expenditure on these schemes is met out of the interest earned on the Corpus Fund.

(ix) Nai Roshni- Nai Roshni, the scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women for their empowerment. The implementation of this scheme started from 2012-13. Under the scheme, one week training programmes are organized through Non-Governmental Organizations on various modules like Banking Systems, Government Schemes, Livelihood Skills, Rights of Women, Health and Hygiene etc. During 2012-13, Rs. 15.00 Crore were earmarked for training of 40,000 women. Out of that, Rs.10.45 Crore were released to 64 organizations for training of 36,950 women. Further, the proposals which were received late during 2012-13 with recommendations from State Governments were considered during 2013-14, and Rs. 2.81 Crore were released to 36 organizations for training of 12250 women in 12 States. During 2013-14, Rs. 15.00 Crore have been earmarked for training of 40,000 women. The state-wise list of organizations sanctioned and funds released during 2012-13 and 2013-14 are at Annexure -VIII & IX.

(x) Seekho aur Kamao-Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched "Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)", a new 100% Central Sector Scheme for Skill Development of minorities. The scheme aims at upgrading the skills of the minority youths in various modern/traditional vocations depending upon their educational qualification, present economic trends and the market potential, which can earn them a suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self employment. The scheme puts a condition on Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to ensure minimum 75% employment of trained youths, out of which 50% should be in organized sector. The target for 2013-14 is to skill 7,500 beneficiaries with an allocation of Rs. 17 crore. A pilot project for 500 minority youths has already been launched in collaboration with IL&FS Skill Development Corporation at 5 (five) locations namely, Delhi, Kolkata (West Bengal), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Barnala (Punjab) and Shillong (Meghalaya). Ministry has already taken action for empanelment of PIAs. NMDFC has also signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) on imparting "Driver's Training to youths belonging to Minority Communities". The drivers training programme has already been launched in Karnataka during November 2013.

Further, Multi-sectoral Development Plan (MsDP) has also been restructured to the effect that at least 10% of the allocation given to the States, would be earmarked for the skill training related activities of minority youth. The target is to skill 60,000 beneficiaries with an allocation of Rs. 125 crore. During 2013-14, project proposals of Rs. 22.98 crore for skill trainings of 17876 persons have been approved.

(xi) Scheme for Support for Minority Students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), State Public Service Commissions etc.- The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the State Governments and to increase the representation of the minorities in the Civil Services by giving direct financial support to candidates clearing Preliminary Examination of Group A and B. services conducted by UPSC, SSC and State Public Service Commissions (Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts). The rate of financial assistance is Rs.50,000/- for Gazetted post and Rs. 25,000/- for non-Gazetted post, for minority candidates having family income not exceeding Rs. 4.50 lakh per annum. The Scheme has been launched in 2013-14.

Further this Ministry's Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for welfare of minorities is an overarching programme which covers various schemes of different Ministries/ Departments either by earmarking 15% of physical targets/financial outlays for the minorities or by specific monitoring of flow of benefits/funds to minorities or areas with substantial minority population.