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Title: Need to direct the banks of the country to follow the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India in order to allow the students from minorities to open scholarship accounts in various banks.

SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN (VELLORE): There are disturbing reports that banks are not allowing Muslim students to open scholarship accounts. In 2005, the RBI issued guidelines to banks for opening 'No-frills accounts or Nil balance accounts". These guidelines are still in operation. If banks are reluctant to do so, this is clear violation of Government directives. In Andhra Pradesh, banks have refused to open accounts of Minority Students. About 90,000 Muslim Students could not open their accounts. The Hindu newspaper has reported that there is a sharp decline in the number of bank accounts opened by the Minorities in some states. A Reserve Bank of India report states that the number of bank account holders in the 121 Minority Concentration Districts increased by a mere four per cent during 2008-09 compared with that of 83.80 per cent during 2007-08. It means the banks in minority districts are not adhering to the RBI lending norms for the minorities.

Keeping in view of the above, I sincerely appeal to the Central Government to take this matter seriously and with utmost urgency in the national interest and direct the banks to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.