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Title: Need to provide meritorious scholarships and concessional loans to the students of minority community in Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Education and improving education contributes to nation's prosperity and growth. That is one reason why the Government is taking many steps to help students to pursue education, especially those hailing from poor families and minority communities. The Centre appointed Justice Sachar Committee to look into the socio-economic problems and the educational backwardness of the minority community, the Muslim community. Several recommendations given by that

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

committee are in the process of being implemented. In the light of that, I would like to reiterate that it is the bounden duty of the Government to help poor Muslims students and youth to come up in life with education and training. This is important from the social point of view that they should not be allowed to be misdirected. Hence, it is necessary to create an awareness about the various schemes of the Government for the benefit of minority communities. For instance, there is a scheme implemented by the Union Government through the Maulana Azad Foundation to extend scholarships to poor minority community students. We must ensure that students hailing from all the States are getting this benefit in a well distributed manner. I am pained to point out that the minority community students applying for scholarships from Tamil Nadu are not getting favourable reply and response and are mostly denied this scholarship. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to ensure systematic distribution so that the needy poor minority community students especially those hailing from the Islamic community are benefited.