

G. COMMUNAL HARMONY:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued revised guidelines to promote communal harmony to the States and Union Territories in June, 2008. National Communal Harmony Awards are given every year by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, an autonomous organisation under MHA, to individuals and organisation for outstanding contribution towards promotion of communal harmony and national integration. Further, the Government has introduced a Bill titled The Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005 in the Rajya Sabha.

**Parsis as a minority community**

†3324. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Parsis are considered a minority;
- (b) whether they have ever demanded special rights;
- (c) the total percentage of increase recorded in their population during the last census;
- (d) whether they have ever been found to be involved in divisive activities;
- (e) what they have expressed any problem in living life according to their customs and traditions; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government of India *vide* notification dated 23rd October, 1993 has notified Zoroastrians (Parsis) as a minority community.

- (b) Parsis have not demanded rights not sanctified under the laws.
- (c) The percentage decline recorded in their population during the last census is 8.88%.

(d) to (f) Parsis as a whole are generally found to be peace loving. The main problems expressed by the members of Parsi Community are:—

- (i) declining population;
- (ii) reproductive health issues;
- (iii) decline in population of vultures near Towers of Silence.

**Leadership training to minority women**

3325. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently launched a scheme for leadership training to minority women;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many women have been enrolled in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The total number of women to be trained during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period is 1.828 lakh. The details thereof and details of the scheme are available on the website of the Ministry—[www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

#### Target of JNNSM

3326. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) under his Ministry would achieve its target of 1,000 MW of solar energy by 2013;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to bear 30 per cent of the cost of installing solar photovoltaic panel which cost around Rs. 2 lakh;

(c) in how many States 20 per cent subsidy in this regard is being provided at present;

(d) by when Government proposes to announce tariffs at which power firms can buy solar energy; and

(e) whether solar panels can also be connected to a grid to supply power to the entire area like Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In addition, to the grid connected solar power projects, 200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications are also to be supported in the first phase of the Mission, till 2012-13, where 30% subsidy can be made available to the eligible beneficiaries for the off-grid solar photovoltaic applications.

(c) The Government has been implementing a country wide solar photovoltaic programme to promote various off-grid solar photovoltaic applications under which subsidy of up to 50% of the cost of the photovoltaic systems is being provided to the beneficiaries from the general category States and up to 90% from the special category States.

(d) Tariff for purchase of solar power is fixed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC). During 2009-10 the CERC has issued the guidelines and norms for fixing tariff for solar power. CERC has also announced tariff for purchase of solar power from solar thermal and photovoltaic power plants.

(e) Under the first phase of the JNNSM a total of 1,100 MW capacity of grid connected solar power plants, both solar thermal and photovoltaic are to be set up in the country, which can supply power to any selected area including Delhi.