

- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action being taken to do the required research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) To run schemes for welfare of minority communities, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) has been provided with a corpus fund. The Foundation is implementing all its welfare schemes out of the interest earned on its Corpus Fund. No amount has been earmarked for research work in MAEF.

Since its inception and up to 31st October, 2010, the MAEF has sanctioned Rs. 130.67 crores to 998 NGOs throughout the country for construction/expansion of schools/colleges/girls hostels/polytechnics/ITI and purchase of equipment/machinery/furniture and has distributed scholarships to 41977 girl students amounting to Rs.48.20 crores.

Strengthening of State Wakf Boards

3655. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched a new scheme for strengthening of State Wakf Boards;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to improve the performance of State Wakf Boards, whose conditions are at present very poor and weak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Government has launched a scheme for computerization of the records of the State Waqf Boards in December, 2009 under which grant-in-aid assistance is being provided to various Waqf Boards. Rs. 5.42 crores have been released to 20 State/Union Territory Waqf Boards till 31st October, 2010.

Welfare of Muslims

†3656. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Sachar Committee appointed for assessing the social, economic and educational status of Indian muslims, has revealed that their status is even worse than that of Schedule Tribes/Schedule Castes;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the development of Muslims in view of the reports of Sachar Committee and Gopal Singh Committee; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Sachar Committee has observed that Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and Muslims are the most disadvantaged communities. The salient findings of the Sachar Committee are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The steps taken on the follow-up action on the decisions of the Government on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee are given in the Statement-II (*See below*). In respect of Gopal Singh Committee a statement indicating the comments of the Government on the recommendations made was laid in Rajya Sabha on 24th August, 1990.

Statement-I

Salient findings of the Sachar Committee

(i) Education:

- (a) The literacy rate among Muslims was 59.1%, which was below the national average of 64.8%.
- (b) The mean years of schooling (MYS) is lower compared to the average MYS for all children.
- (c) 25% of Muslim children in the age of 6 - 14 year age group have either never attended school or have dropped out.
- (d) The majority of Muslim girls and boys fail in their matriculation examination or drop out before that.
- (e) Less than 4% of Muslims are graduates or diploma holders compared to about 7% of the population aged 20 years and above.

- (f) There is a strong desire and enthusiasm for education among Muslim women and girls across the board.
- (g) Schools beyond primary level are few in Muslim localities. Exclusive schools for girls are fewer.
- (h) Lack of hostel facilities is a limiting factor, especially for girls.
- (i) Muslim parents are not averse to modern or mainstream education and to sending their children to affordable Government schools. They do not necessarily prefer to send children to madarasas. However, the access to government schools for Muslim children is limited.

(ii) Skill development

- (a) Skill development initiatives for those who have not completed school education may be particularly relevant for some sections of Muslims given their occupational structure.
- (b) The skill demands in the manufacturing and service sectors are changing continuously and youth with middle school education would meet these needs.
- (c) A rehabilitation package for innovative re-skilling and for upgrading the occupational structure in the wake of liberalization is seen as an urgent need.

(iii) Employment and economic opportunities:

- (a) Self-employment is the main source of income of Muslims. They are engaged more in self-employed manufacturing and trade activities compared to others.
- (b) The share of Muslim workers engaged in street vending is the highest. More than 12 per cent of Muslim male workers are engaged in street vending as compared to the national average of less than 8 per cent.
- (c) The percentage of women Muslim workers undertaking work within their own homes is much larger at 70 per cent compared to all workers at 51 per cent.
- (d) The share of Muslims in the total workers engaged in the tobacco and textiles/garment related industries are quite significant.

- (e) The share of Muslim workers in production related activities and transport equipment operation is much higher at 34%, as against 21% of all workers.
- (f) More than 16 per cent of Muslims were engaged as sales workers, while the national average was only about 10 per cent.
- (g) While the participation of Muslim workers is relatively higher in production and sales related occupations, their participation was relatively lower in professional, technical, clerical and to some extent managerial work.
- (h) Muslims, by and large, are engaged in the unorganized sector of the economy and have to bear the brunt of liberalization.
- (i) The participation of Muslims in regular salaried jobs is much less than workers of other socio-religious categories.
- (j) Muslims are relatively more vulnerable in terms of conditions of work as their concentration in informal sector employment is higher and their job conditions, even among regular workers, are less for Muslims than those of other socio-religious communities.
- (k) Percentage of households availing banking facilities is much lower in villages where the share of Muslim population is high.
- (iv) **Poverty and development**
 - (a) About 38% of Muslims in urban areas and 27% in rural areas live below the poverty level.
 - (b) Muslims are concentrated in locations with poor infrastructure facilities. This affects their access to basic services like education, health facilities, transport, etc.
 - (c) About a third of small villages with high concentration of Muslims do not have any educational institutions.
 - (d) There is a scarcity of medical facilities in larger villages with a substantial Muslim concentration. About 40% of large villages with a substantial Muslim concentration do not have any medical facilities.
 - (e) Muslim concentration villages are not well served with pucca roads.

- (f) Policies to deal with the relative deprivation of the Muslims in the country should sharply focus on inclusive development and mainstreaming of the community while respecting diversity.
- (v) **Social conditions**
 - (a) A community-specific factor for low educational achievement is that Muslims do not see education as necessarily translating into formal employment.
 - (b) The Muslim population shows an increasingly better sex ratio compared with other socio-religious communities.
 - (c) Infant and childhood mortality among Muslims is slightly lower than the average.
 - (d) There has been a large decline in fertility in all the religious groups including Muslims.

Statement-II

Department/Ministry-wise status of implementation on the follow-up action on the major recommendations of the Sachar Committee

The Government took decisions on the recommendations of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslim Community of India, pertaining to various Ministries/Departments. The status of implementation of the decisions taken by Government on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee is as under:

- (i) **Department of Financial Services (up to 30th September, 2010):**
 - a. All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population. In 2007-08, 523 branches were opened in such districts. In 2008-09, 537 new branches were opened. In 2009-10, 743 new branches were opened. During 2010-11, 162 branches have been opened in such districts.
 - b. RBI revised its Master Circular on 5th July, 2007 on priority sector lending (PSL) for improving credit facilities to minority communities. Since 2007-08, Rs.1,17,761 crore upto June 2010, which is 13.77% of total PSL were provided to minorities.

- c. District Consultative Committees (DCCs) of lead banks are regularly monitoring the disposal and rejection of loan applications for minorities.
- d. To promote micro-finance among women, 4,67,082 accounts have been opened for minority women with Rs.3373 crore as micro-credit in 2010-11.
- e. All public sector banks are organizing awareness campaigns in blocks/districts/towns with substantial minority population. In 2010-11, 1905 awareness campaigns were organized in such areas.
- f. Lead banks have organized 313 entrepreneurial development programmes in blocks/districts/towns with substantial minority population.

(ii) Ministry of Human Resource Development (up to 30th September, 2010):

A multi-pronged strategy to address the educational backwardness of the Muslim community, as brought out by the Sachar Committee, has been adopted, as given below :

- a. Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, criteria of educationally backward blocks has been revised with effect from 1st April 2008 to cover blocks with less than 30% rural female literacy and in urban areas with less than national average of female literacy (53.67%: Census 2001). Under the scheme, out of 2573 KGBVs, 427 have been sanctioned in rural and urban areas of Muslim concentration.
- b. Universalization of access to quality education at secondary stage called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been approved. The scheme envisages preference to minority concentration areas in opening of Government schools. State Governments have been advised to accord priority to setting up new/upgraded schools in minority concentration areas while appraising proposals under this scheme.
- c. One model college each would be set up in 374 educationally backward districts (EBDs) of the country. Of 374 EBDs, 67 are in identified minority concentration districts.
- d. Under the sub-mission on polytechnics, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for setting up of polytechnics in un-served and under-served districts. 57 districts out of 90

minority concentration districts are eligible for consideration under the scheme. So far, 35 minority concentration districts have been covered for setting up polytechnics.

- e. Preference is given by University Grants Commission for provision of girls' hostels in universities and colleges in the areas where there is concentration of minorities especially Muslims. UGC has sanctioned 233 Women's hostels during 11th Plan in 90 minority concentration districts.
- f. The Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernisation Programme has been revised and bifurcated into two schemes. A Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas (SPQEM) has been launched with an allocation of Rs.325 crore for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. It contains attractive provisions for better teachers' salary, increased assistance for books, teaching aids and computers, and introduction of vocational subjects, etc. The other scheme, which provides financial assistance for Infrastructure Development of Private aided/unaided Minority Institutes (IDMI), has been launched with allocation of Rs.125 crore for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan.
- g. For subsequent access to higher education, the certificates issued by the State Madarsa Boards, whose certificates and qualifications have been granted equivalence by the corresponding State Boards, would be considered equivalent by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council of Board of School Education in India (COBSE) or/and by any other school examination board.
- h. Academies for professional development of Urdu medium teachers have been set up at three Central Universities namely, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University.
- i. Under the revised scheme, financial assistance is given for appointment of Urdu teachers in a Government school in any locality where more than 25% of the population is from Urdu speaking community. The financial assistance would be based on the prevailing salary structure of Urdu teachers employed with schools of the State Government. Honorarium is also admissible to part-time Urdu teachers.
- j. The States/UTs have been advised to undertake community based mobilization campaigns in areas having a substantial population of Muslims. In 2009-10, 19 districts having a substantial minority population were covered under Saakshar Bharat.

- k. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) are envisaged in the revised schemes. At present, JSSs are imparting vocational training in 33 out of the 88 Muslim dominated districts in the country.
- l. The mid-day meal scheme has been extended to all areas in the country from the year 2008-09 and also covers upper primary schools. Blocks with a concentration of Muslim population are being covered under this scheme.
- m. All State Governments/UT administrations have been advised for using existing school buildings and community buildings as study centres for school children.
- n. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared text books for all classes in the light of the National Curriculum Framework-2005.
- o. Thirty five universities have started centers for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Besides, 1280 Centres of Equal Opportunity (CEOs) have been established in 51 universities during 2009-10 and 1345 and 1367 such centres are proposed to be established during 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

(iii) Ministry of Minority Affairs (up to 30th September, 2010):

- a. An expert group, constituted to study and recommend the structure and functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC), submitted its report on 13th March, 2008. This has been processed as per approved modalities, along with the report of the expert group on diversity index.
- b. A Bill to amend Waqf Act, 1995 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 27th April, 2010 and passed on 7th May, 2010. It was then referred to the Rajya Sabha. The Bill has now been referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.
- c. The Government has accorded in-principle approval for restructuring of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC). A consultancy firm has been appointed to work out the details for restructuring of NMDFC.

- d. An Inter-ministerial Task Force constituted to devise an appropriate strategy and action plan for developing 338 identified towns, having substantial minority population, rapidly in a holistic manner submitted its report on 8th November, 2007. The concerned Ministries/Departments have been advised to give priority in the implementation of their schemes in these 338 towns.
- e. Three scholarship schemes for minority communities namely, pre-matric scholarship from class-I to X, post-matric scholarship from class XI to PhD and merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels have been launched. Under these schemes, Rs. 1148.37 crore have been sanctioned for award of scholarships to 54.91 lakh students belonging to minority communities since 2007-08. Further, a fellowship scheme called Maulana Azad National Fellowship scheme for M.Phil and Ph.D. scholars has been launched for implementation by University Grants Commission (UGC) and 755 fellowships have been awarded to fellows/students from minority communities during 2009-10.
- f. The corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), which stood at Rs. 100 crore, was doubled to Rs.200 crore in December, 2006. The corpus was increased by Rs.50 crore in 2007-08 and by Rs.60 crore in 2008-09. It was further increased by Rs.115 crore during 2009-10 and Rs. 125 crore during 2010-11. Now corpus stands at Rs.550.00 crore. Under the schemes of MAEF, since 2007-08, 280 NGOs have been given grants-in-aid for infrastructure development of educational institutions and 31145 scholarships were awarded to meritorious girls in classes-XI and XII.
- g. A revised Coaching and Allied scheme was launched in 2006-07 and cumulatively more than 20566 students/candidates belonging to minority communities have benefited from this scheme.
- h. A Multi- sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) was launched in 90 identified minority concentration districts in 2008-09. Plans of 89 minority concentration districts in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Bihar, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttrakhand, Mizoram, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have been approved and Rs.

1440.29 crores released to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations upto 15th November, 2010 since launching of the programme. Under this special area development programme, approvals have been given, as on 31st October, 2010, for construction of 646 school buildings, 9407 additional class rooms, 101 hostels for students, 90 laboratories for secondary and higher schools, teaching aids for 65 schools, 13 industrial training institutes, 16 polytechnic institutes, 2350 health centres, 25071 anganwadi centres, 264249 Indira Awas Yojana, 23208 safe drinking water supply facilities, 26794 solar lantern/lighting systems, 574 toilet facilities in minority concentration districts (MCDs).

(iv) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (up to 30th September, 2010):

A National Data Bank, to compile data on the various socio-economic and basic amenities parameters for socio-religious communities, has been set up in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(v) Planning Commission (up to 30th June, 2010):

- a. An autonomous Assessment & Monitoring Authority (AMA), to analyse data collected for taking appropriate and corrective policy decisions, has been set up in the Planning Commission.
- b. A comprehensive institutional structure for fostering skill development has been set up in Planning Commission to address the skill development needs of the country including minorities. It includes National Council on Skill Development, National Skill Development Coordination Board and a National Skill Development Corporation.

(vi) Department of Personnel and Training (up to 30th September, 2010):

- a. A training module has been developed by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, for sensitization of government officials. The module has been sent to the Central/State Training Institutes for implementation and it has been included in their training calendar. Lai Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) has prepared a module for sensitization of organized civil services and it has been incorporated in their training programme.

- b. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised by Department of Personnel & Training for posting of Muslim police personnel in Thanas and Muslim health personnel and teachers in Muslim concentration areas.

(vii) Ministry of Home Affairs (up to 30th September, 2010):

- a. A High Level Committee, set up to review the Delimitation Act, has considered the concerns expressed in the Sachar Committee report and submitted its report.
- b. Revised guidelines on Communal Harmony have been issued. The Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005 is under consideration of Parliament.

(viii) Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation (up to 30th September, 2010):

For facilitating the flow of funds under the Jawarharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) to towns and cities, having a substantial concentration of minority population, necessary steps have been taken to ensure that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for such towns and cities include adequate provisions for minorities.

- a. Under UIDSSMT, out of total 764 projects sanctioned for 641 towns at a total cost of Rs. 12928.93 crore, 108 projects costing Rs.2620.31 crore are for 108 minority concentration towns. This represents 20.27% flow of funds to towns having a substantial minority population.
- b. Under IHSDP, out of total 962 projects sanctioned for 818 towns at a total cost of Rs.9637.99 crore, 131 projects costing Rs. 1807.93 crore are for 234 minority concentration towns. This represents 18.76% flow of funds to towns having a substantial minority population.
- c. Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Puducheerry and Kerala have given exemption to Waqf Board properties from Rent Control Act.

(ix) **Ministry of Labour and Employment (up to 30th September, 2010):**

An Act has been passed by the Parliament for providing social security to workers in the un-organized sector, which, inter-alia, includes home based workers.

(x) **Ministry of Culture (up to 30th September, 2010):**

Meetings of circles of Archeological Survey of India have been held with State Waqf Boards to review the list of waqfs which are under the Archeological Survey of India.

(xi) **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (up to 30th June, 2010):**

Dissemination of information regarding health and family welfare schemes is being undertaken in regional languages in minority concentration areas.

(xii) **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (up to 30th June, 2010):**

State Governments have been advised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Urban Development to improve representation of minorities in local bodies.

(xiii) **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (up to 30th June, 2010):**

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting launched a multi-media campaign in 2008-09. In addition to this, Ministry of Minority Affairs also launched a multi-media campaign in 2009-10.

Minority status of Sikhs in J & K

†3657. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs living in Jammu and Kashmir have not been kept under the category of minority community whereas Sikh community has been granted the status of minority community in the whole country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The declaration of minority communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis), has been made under section 2(c) of National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.