

Improving conditions of Muslims

2890. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sachar Committee Report has raised concerns that though there is considerable variation in the conditions of Muslims across States, the community exhibits deficits and deprivation in practically all dimensions of development;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken, so far, to improve the conditions of Muslims in the States where the situation is worse; and

(c) the steps Government has taken, so far, to comply with the recommendations of the Sachar Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The steps taken by the Government to improve the socio-economic conditions of Muslims in India as a follow-up of the various recommendations of the Sachar Committee are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Ministry/Department-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. The status of implementation of the decisions taken by Government on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee by different Ministries/Departments is as under:—

(i) Department of Financial Services:

- (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 have been opened. During 2010-11, 645 bank branches have been opened upto September, 2010. A total of 2448 bank branches have been opened upto March, 2011 since 2007-08.
- (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. 1,43,396.70 crore upto March, 2011, which is 14.16% 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, 587088 accounts have been opened for minority women with Rs. 3984.72 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, 1976 awareness campaigns were organized in such areas.
- (f) Lead banks have organized 1219 Entrepreneurial Development Programmes (EDPs) in blocks/districts/towns with substantial minority population.

(ii) Ministry of Human Resource Development:

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:—

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). 490 KGBVs have been sanctioned for minority concentration districts.

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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, 36 minority concentration districts have been covered for setting up polytechnics.

- (d) 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 239 Women's hostels during Eleventh Plan in minority concentration districts.
- (e) The Area Intensive and 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.
- (f) For subsequent access to higher education and employment, 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.
- (g) Academies for professional development of Urdu medium teachers have been set up at three Central Universities namely, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Milia Islamia University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University.
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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.
- (j) 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.

- (k) 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.
- (l) All State Governments/UT administrations have been advised for using existing school buildings and community buildings as study Centres for school children.
- (m) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared text books for all classes in the light of the National Curriculum Framework-2005.
- (n) 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:**

- (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, alongwith 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 Ph.D.

and merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses at undergraduate and post-graduate levels have been launched. Under these schemes, since 2007-08, a total of 72.09 lakh scholarships have been awarded to the students belonging to minority communities. Further, a fellowship scheme called Maulana Azad National Fellowship scheme for M.Phil and Ph.D. scholars has been launched and 757 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 has been enhanced every year and now stands at Rs. 700.00 crore. The corpus will be further increased by Rs. 50 crore which is available in the budget for 2011-12. 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. 4725 students/candidates belonging to minority communities have benefited under this scheme in 2010-11 upto December, 2010.
- (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 and Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have been approved and Rs. 2026.41 crores released to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations upto March, 2011 since launching of the programme.

(iv) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation:

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:

- (a) An autonomous Assessment and 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:

- (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. Lal 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 and Training for posting of Muslim police personnel in Thanas and Muslim health personnel and teachers in Muslim concentration areas.
- (c) Guidelines for giving special consideration in the recruitment of minorities in Government, Railways, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on 8th January, 2007. Since then, the annual recruitment of minorities has been monitored regularly on annual basis.

(vii) Ministry of Home Affairs:

- (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. A working group in National Advisory Council (NAC) has drafted a Bill titled Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011. Comments of the MHA have been given already to NAC. (Ministry of Home Affairs).

(viii) Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation:

For facilitating the flow of funds under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), Integrated Housing and 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 project cost of Rs. 12928.93 crore, Rs. 2620.31 crore has been sanctioned for 108 towns, having a substantial minority population.
- (b) Under IHSDP, out of total projects cost of Rs. 9637.99 crore, 1817.38 crore has been sanctioned for 132 cities/towns having a substantial minority population.
- (c) Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Kerala have given exemption to Waqf Board properties from Rent Control Act.

(ix) Ministry of Labour and Employment:

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:

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:

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

(xii) Ministry of Panchayati Raj:

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 and Broadcasting:

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting launched a multi-media campaign in 2008-09. In addition to this, for more effective dissemination of information to its target beneficiaries, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has under taken multi-media campaign through print, radio and TV. To ensure greater transparency, the website of the Ministry has been made more users friendly. It contains detailed information about schemes, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), list of beneficiaries, photographs, physical and financial achievements etc.

Skill-training to unemployed minority youths

2891. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: