

- (i) Educational Empowerment, Area Development, Economic Empowerment and Strengthening of Minority Institutions have been adopted as the four pronged strategy for the development of minority communities in the country, during the 12th Five Year Plan.
- (ii) In order to make the Schemes / Programmes for minority welfare more effective and focused, a Working Group was constituted on 'Empowerment of Minorities' for formulation of 12th Five Year Plan which has made various recommendations. These include making the Scholarship Schemes Demand Driven,' blocks' to be the unit of planning for area development, to expand the basket of schemes included in the PM's New 15 Point Programme, to introduce social audit for all minority welfare schemes, *etc.*
- (iii) In order to streamline the scholarship schemes, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has introduced the Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS) for Merit-cum-means based Scholarship Scheme in 2011-12 and for Post-matric Scholarship Scheme in 2012-13.
- (iv) Quarterly review is conducted by the Ministry of Minority Affairs with the Nodal Officers of concerned Ministries/Departments. Ministry of Minority Affairs also reviews the progress under this Programme with States/UTs. Further, the progress is reviewed by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) on half yearly basis and then reported to the Cabinet.
- (v) Meetings and conferences of Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of State /UT Governments are held to review the implementation of Schemes of the Ministry.

#### **Illegal encroachment of Wakf lands**

†2409. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that many Wakf Boards in the country

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

including that of Uttarakhand have requested the local administration to remove illegal encroachments from their lands;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered in the country including Uttarakhand, along with the details of action taken thereon;

(c) the heads on which the income earned by Wakf Boards of various States is spent; and

(d) whether the Central Government also provides financial assistance to the Wakf Boards and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Only one case from Uttarakhand wherein the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Wakf Board has requested the local administration to remove illegal encroachments from their land, has come to the notice of the Ministry of Minority Affairs through a copy of a letter addressed to the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand by a mutawalli of a wakf.

Wakf Boards in the States are established by the respective State Governments under of the Wakf Act, 1995. Further, the general superintendence of all the wakfs in a State vests in the Wakf Board and it is the duty of the Board to ensure that the wakfs under its superintendence are properly maintained, controlled and administered. As per the Act, the CEO of the State/UT Wakf Board is empowered to take action to remove encroachment from wakf properties and for enforcement of orders through the district administration. The Ministry of Minority Affairs do not receive such details as it has no direct role to play in this regard.

(c) All receipts received by the Wakf Board form the wakf fund. The Wakf Act 1995 provides that the wakf fund can be used for the purposes of repayment of loan, payment of the cost of audit, payment of the salary and allowances to the officers and staff of the Board, payment of travelling allowances to the Chairperson/members of the Board *etc.* The fund is also utilized by the Board for preservation and protection of wakf properties.

(d) The Central Government is not giving any financial assistance to the State Wakf Boards. However, under the scheme of Computerization of records of

State Wakf Boards, the Central Government is providing funds to the State/UT Wakf Boards.

#### **Scholarships to Muslim children**

2410. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by Government for Wazifa (stipend) to Muslim children during the last three years across the county, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been inordinate delay in releasing the stipend fund to some States for payment to the Muslim children;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps/measures taken/being taken by Government for releasing the stipend fund to the affected States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for Wazifa i.e. scholarships under Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-means scholarship schemes during the last three years across the county, State-wise is given in Statement (*See* below).

The financial assistances are for all the five notified minority communities. However, the number of scholarships given to each of the minority community in any State/Union Territory under these schemes is strictly determined on the basis of population ratio in that State/Union Territory as per 2001 Census.

(b) There has been no delay on the part of Government of India in releasing funds to States/Union Territories after proposals complete in all respects were received.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.