

M. Phil and Ph.D. levels. The scheme is linked with the Educational Loan scheme of Indian Banks Association (IBA). Total family income from all sources of the eligible candidate shall not exceed Rs. 6.00 lakh per annum. Scheme has been formulated and Expression of Interest (EoI) has been invited from 8 Nationalized Banks to act as model bank, through Limited Tender.

- (iii) **New Component under Coaching and Allied Scheme:** During 2013-14, a new component under this scheme has been added on pilot basis for focused preparation of minority students at class XI and XII with Science stream. The rate of financial support for a selected student under this component is upto Rs. 1,00,000/- (one lakh) per annum. Three Institutes have been selected one each from Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal.
- (iv) **Scheme for Support for Minority Students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), State Public Service Commissions etc.:** The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing Preliminary examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for selection in Civil Services in the Union and State Governments and to increase representation of the minorities in these services. Financial support is given to candidates clearing Preliminary examinations of Group A and B (Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts). The rate of financial assistance is Rs. 50,000/- for Gazetted post and Rs. 25,000/- for non-Gazetted post, for minority candidates having family income not exceeding Rs. 4.50 lakh per annum. Applications from eligible candidates have already been invited.

Corruption in Waqf Boards

404. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is rampant corruption and misappropriation of funds in Waqf Boards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) and (b) As per the Waqf Act, 1995, the Waqf Board in a State is established and administered by the respective State Government. In

terms of Section 32 of the Act, the general superintendence of all the auqaf in a State vests in the Board established or the State and, therefore, the State Government/ State Waqf Boards ensure that the auqaf under its superintendence are properly maintained, controlled, administered and the income thereof is duly applied to the objects and for the purposes for which such auqaf were created and intended. Further, no such intimation regarding rampant corruption and misappropriation of funds in the Waqf Boards has come to the notice of the Central Government.

(c) To bring transparency in the working of the Waqf Boards, the Central Government is implementing a scheme for computerisation of records of State/UT Waqf Boards. The Central Government has also amended the Waqf Act, 1995 for better administration and protection of the auqaf in the country.

Living standard of Muslim community

†405. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are many minority communities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is also a fact that the living standard of the Muslim community is the lowest in the rural and urban areas of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) As per the provisions of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, five communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as Minority communities by the Central Government.

As per the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) Report on “Employment and Unemployment Situation Among Major Religious Groups in India (July, 2009 — June, 2010)”, in 2009-10, the average monthly per capita consumer expenditure, which is usually taken to reflect the living standard of household, was Rs. 980/- (Rs. 833 for rural areas and Rs. 1272 for urban areas) for Muslim community, which was lowest among all the minority communities. The issues related to social, educational and economic status of Muslim community has been dealt in detail in the Sachar Committee Report submitted to the Government in the year 2006. The Report has *inter-alia*, observed that there is low educational achievement among the Muslim

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.