

(b) Till date MAEF has sanctioned grant-in-aid of Rs. 177.48 crore to 1350 NGOs all over the country. The list of assisted NGOs is available on the website of MAEF **www.maef.nic.in**.

(c) So far, MAEF has granted scholarship of Rs. 120.42 crore to 102159 beneficiaries all over the country. Out of which scholarship has been granted to 2610 girl students in Madhya Pradesh and 20700 girl students in Uttar Pradesh. State-wise list of beneficiaries granted scholarship is available on the website of MAEF **www.maef.nic.in**.

Criteria for granting minority status

1953. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry proposes for having any plan for caste based census for minority communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of criteria which the Ministry is considering for granting minority status in the country; and

(d) the details of the criteria considered by the Ministry for granting minority status to Jain community recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) National Commission for Minorities had recommended that the benefits accorded to the Buddhists and Sikhs as minority communities, cannot in principle, be denied to the Jains. Further, Ministry of Law has examined the matter and also expressed its views that the Jain community may be declared as a minority community. Taking into consideration of these facts and several representations of 'Jains', the Government of India *vide* Gazette Notification dated 27.01.2014 has declared Jains as a minority community in addition to five communities already notified as minority communities *viz.* Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis).

Lack of efficiency and transparency in MAEF

1954. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) lacks efficiency and transparency; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken to make it fully useful body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) is functioning with efficiency and transparency. To improve transparency further, schemes of MAEF were made online. The website of MAEF was made more dynamic with all details regarding sanctioned and pending applications under grant-in-aid scheme uploaded on the official website at www.maef.nic.in. The list of the beneficiaries of scholarship scheme is also uploaded on the website of MAEF immediately after finalization. Ministry is monitoring activities of MAEF through regular quarterly meetings under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MA attended by senior officers of the Ministry and MAEF.

Impact of 15 Point Programme

1955. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's new 15 Point Programme, amended and improved from time to time, has not been able to render any tangible results; and

(b) if so, the alternatives contemplated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As a result of implementation of Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities substantial benefits in the area of Education, Employment, Skill Development and Improvement in Living Conditions have accrued to the minority communities and in the areas having substantial minority population. The number of beneficiaries of minority communities and flow of funds/infrastructure development to areas having substantial minority population under the schemes covered under Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme is given in the Statement.