## **Education of Muslim illiterates**

†1937. CHAUDHARY MUNAVVER SALEEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of recommendations made by Sachar Committee and the areas where the same have been implemented by Central Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Government is planning to educate illiterate Muslim children by providing special opportunities and if so, the decisions made in this regard;
- (c) whether Government proposes to provide special quota in admission in the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas for the Muslim children who are extremely backward in education in order to connect them to education; and
  - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) In Chapter 12 of the Sachar Committee Report, recommendations have been made on improving the educational status of the Muslim community in India. A summary of the said recommendations and updated status is given in the Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Government has been implementing various minority education schemes to educate Muslim children by providing special opportunities. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 15% outlay is targeted for the Minority Concentration Districts (MCD) Areas to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education, to meet infrastructure gaps for schools, classrooms, teachers and providing access by opening new schools. Other schemes which also benefit minorities and Muslims include the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas (SPQEM), Scheme of Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutions (IDMI), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme (JNV), setting up of Girls Hostels, Model Schools under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), establishment of the Model Degree Colleges, Women Hostels and Polytechnics in the Minority Concentrated Districts. Setting up of Block Institutes of Teacher Education, Appointment of Language Teachers, providing modern education to Madrasas under National Institute of Open Schooling and easing of norms for affiliation of Minority Educational Institutions are some of the important initiatives undertaken by the Government to provide access to education to minorities including Muslims. The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing various schemes including Pre-matric, Post-matric, Merit-cum-Means Scholarships, Maulana Azad National Fellowship.

The achievements made under the affirmative interventions under various schemes for the promotion of education of the minorities have been quite encouraging. Trends indicate a consistent increase in the enrolment of Muslim children at elementary level. The enrolment of Muslim children at Primary level as a percentage of total enrolment has increased from 9.4% in 2006-07 to 14.2% in 2012-13, and at the Upper Primary level, the enrolment has increased from 7.2% to 12.1% during the same period.

(c) and (d) As on date, no special quota for Muslim children is available for admission in the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. However, in schools of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, there is a provision of 25% seats in Class-I admission to be filled for SC/ST/EWS/BPL/OBC(Non-creamy layer) applicants as per the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009.

## Statement

Summary of Sachar Committee's recommendations and updated status of follow up action on the decisions of the Government on the recommendations relating to education given by the Sachar Committee

A High Level Committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retired) Rajinder Sachar to gather data/information for preparation of a comprehensive report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India submitted its report (popularly known as Sachar Committee Report) on 17th November, 2006. This report was tabled in both the Houses of Parliament on 30th November, 2006. The Government took several decisions on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and a statement in this regard was laid in both Houses of Parliament on 31.8.2007.

Status of follow up action on the decisions of the Government on the recommendations relating to Education given by the Sachar Committee is as follows:

Sl. No.	Decisions	Status position
1	2	3
1.	The Educational Backwardness of the Muslim Community as brought out by the Sachar Committee will be addressed through a multi-pronged strategy. The strategy will focus specifically on improving the access to education of Muslim girls.	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented by Ministry of Human Resource Development. The States/UTs have been advised under SSA to give primacy to opening of 'Girls only' upper primary schools keeping with the State Government policy, in areas where there is such a demand under SSA. Eight States/UTs namely Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal have opened 'girls only' Schools at the Upper Primary Level.  Under SSA the following works have been taken up since 2006-07:

3

schemes namely Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-means based scholarship schemes. (1) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is committed to ensure universal access to

primary and upper primary education within one km. and three kms.

- respectively. (2) 555 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have been sanctioned since 2006-07. 543 schools are operational enrolling 25.03% Muslim girls.
- (3) Instructions have been issued that as KGBV schools are part of the regular upper primary school system of the State, the State Government / Union Territory's particular policy for instruction in Urdu medium should be adopted for the KGBV schools, The Urdu teachers available in the system should be deployed for the purpose. Continued efforts have been made by M/o HRD to increase enrolment of Muslim girls in these KGBVs.

In order to increase enrolment of girls belonging to minority communities, States have been requested in July/December 2013 to take immediate steps to enroll the most Vulnerable/drop-out girls from the minority communities in the KGBVs so as to enhance their opportunities.

2. The outreach of upper primary schools, particularly for Muslim girls, will be expanded with "girls only" schools, wherever required, and by opening residential Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools, on priority, in areas with substantial Muslim population.

2

 In pursuance of the goal of universalizing secondary education, priority will be given to opening of secondary/senior secondary schools in areas of Muslim concentration, wherever there is need for such schools.

- 4. A mass mobilization campaign will be carried out in all districts, having a substantial population of Muslims, to generate awareness about the need for literacy and elementary education and to promote vocational education and development. A special literacy drive will be taken up in these districts to improve the overall literacy rate and especially the literacy rate of Muslim women.
- 5. New Jan Shikshan Sansthans (JSS) would be set up in all districts, with a substantial population

- (1) For universalization of access to quality education at secondary stage, a scheme 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.
- (2) During the period of implementation of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan from 2009-10 till date, 10,230 New Secondary Schools have been sanctioned, out of which 1,162 (11.36%) schools have been sanctioned in Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) of which 825 have become functional.

The approved norms of Saakshar Bharat scheme permit coverage of districts that have adult female literacy of 50% or below in 2001. 61 MCDs were covered under this programme during 11th Plan. Only those MCDs which had less than 50% adult female literacy have been covered under the programme.

Jan Shikshan Sansthans (JSSs) are imparting vocational training in 33 out of the 88 Muslim dominated districts in the country. Action for

1 2 3

of Muslims, not covered as yet with such Sansthans.

6. In areas with a concentration of Muslim population, Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs) would be established to impart pre-service and in-service training to

teachers.

7. The allocation for setting up women's hostels in colleges and Universities would be stepped up further during the XIth Plan. The University Grants Commission (UGC) would pay special attention to setting up women's hostels in higher education institutions in Muslim concentration areas.

primary, upper primary and secondary level

8. The Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme will be augmented and the scheme revised to enhance the components eligible for assistance under this programme.

covering additional districts with substantial minority population is under process. A proposal for opening 55 JSSs in MCDs is under consideration.

Under Jan Shikshan Sansthan programme (as on 31.10.2013), out of 248,757 beneficiaries, 30,629 (12.31%) belong to minorities.

Out of 96 Block Institutes for Teachers Education (BITEs), 40 BITEs were approved for being set up in Minority Concentrated Blocks. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the XII Plan *inter-alia* envisages establishment of Block Institutes of Teachers Education in 196 SC/ST/Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs). This has covered 15 States/UTs. In the 12th Plan there is proposal to cover 100% BITEs.

UGC has sanctioned 285 Women's Hostels during 11th Plan in 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs). 25 women hostels during 2012-13 and 68 hostels during 2013-14 have been approved/sanctioned in MCDs.

The Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernisation Programme has been recast as two schemes, namely, the Scheme of Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) and Scheme for Infrastructure Development Private Aided/Unaided Minority Institutes (Elementary / Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools).

 The mid-day meal scheme is being extended to cover children in upper primary classes. Special attention would be given to all Muslim concentration blocks, which are educationally backward. Rs. 540.34 crore have been sanctioned for 25,439 Madarsas and assisting 65,882 teachers under SPQEM since inception. Under IDMI, an amount of Rs. 122.07 crore has been released for 728 institutions since inception.

The Mid-day meal scheme was extended to all areas in the country from the year 2007-08 onwards and also covers upper primary schools. Blocks with concentration of Muslim population are covered under this scheme. Children in Madarsas are also covered under the programme.

Independent evaluation of the Scheme has affirmed a positive educational, nutritional and social impact of the Scheme. Extension of the Scheme to Madarsas/Maktabs has increased enrolment of Muslim children. Trends indicate consistent increase in enrolment of Muslim children at elementary level. The enrolment of Muslim children at Primary level as a percentage of total enrolment has increased from 9.4% in 2006-07 to 14.2% in 2012-13, and at the Upper Primary level, the enrolment has increased from 7.2% to 12.1% during the same period. The Planning Commission has approved the extension of the Scheme to students studying in privately managed unaided schools in SC/ST and minority concentrated districts, benefitting approximately 60.37 lakh children in 29116 schools in minority concentration and special focused districts.

10. Existing school and community buildings could be used in the evenings as 'study centres' and existing teachers could be engaged on honoraria to tutor willing students including girls, who could be accompanied by guardians.

2

11. The National Curriculum Framework-2005
envisages strengthening of a national system
of education in a pluralistic society, based on
the values enshrined in the Constitution of India,
such as social justice, equality and secularism.
Text books are being revised in accordance with
the National Curriculum Framework-2005.

All the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised for using existing school buildings and community buildings as the study centres for school children.

3

16 States {Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana (Pr), Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu} have completed revising their curriculum in the light of National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, while 5 States (Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Tripura} are currently in the process of doing so, and 11 States/UTs (Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands} follow the NCERT syllabus. 3 UTs {Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Puducherry} have followed the Curriculum of neighboring States.

Based on the recommendations of National curriculum 2005, NCERT revised the syllabi and prepared new textbooks of all the subjects for all stages of school education. The whole exercise of revision of syllabi and textbooks is supervised by the National Monitoring Committee. The textbook of secondary and higher secondary stages for

12. The trend of the pool of eligible population for higher education increasing faster for SCs/ STs than for Muslims will be examined further.

A mechanism has already been put in place to 13. make granting of minority educational institution status more responsive. The question of equivalence of qualifications from Madarsas for subsequent access to higher education has been engaging the attention of government. Institutions like Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Milia Islamia University and Jamia Hamdard University already recognize qualifications from Madarsas.

Geography, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Commerce, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics have been reviewed and updated. The syllabus has been revised by almost all the State Govt, either by revision, or by adopting the syllabus of neighboring States.

Rashtriya Ucchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is recently launched to act as an umbrella scheme to be implemented in mission mode in the State Higher Education Sector with a financial outlay of Rs.22,855 crores of which Rs.16,227 crores will be the Central share during the 12th Plan Period. This Scheme will improve equity in providing adequate opportunities of higher education to socially and educationally deprived communities including minorities.

The certificates / qualifications of the Madarsa Boards which have been granted equivalence by the State Education Board to that of their Secondary and Senior Secondary qualification have been equated with corresponding certificates of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council of Board of School Education in India (COBSE) and other school examination boards, for the purpose of employment and entry to higher levels education. DOPT has issued notification in this regard.

With respect to Mechanism for granting of Minority Educational Institution status more responsive, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) has been established by an Act of

2 3 Parliament with the key objective of ensuring that the true amplitude of the educational rights enshrined in Article 30 (1) of the Constitution is made available to the members of the notified religious minority communities, including the Muslims. NCMEI has issued around 8948 minority status certificates as on December, 2013. 14. Civil rights centres, initially in Central universities, Equal Opportunity Cells have been established in 23 Central will be set up to promote the importance of social Universities, 6 Deemed Universities and 3987 Colleges financially assisted by the University Grants Commission. UGC has also issued inclusion. 'UGC (Promotion of equity in Higher Educational institutions) Regulations, 2012 making it mandatory for every higher educational institution to set up such cells.