

Based on the Expert Group Report, recommendations of Group of Ministers and consultations with different stakeholders, draft EOC Bill 2013 for setting up of EOC for the notified Minorities was prepared and approval of the Competent Authority was obtained for placing the Bill before the Parliament. In the meantime, new Government has been formed after General Elections, 2014. Accordingly, the process has again been initiated for obtaining approval of the competent authority to the draft Equal Opportunity Commission Bill for setting up of EOC for notified minorities.

Multi-sectoral development programme

1518. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to bring more districts under the Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) by modifying criteria;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has noticed any flaw with regard to the implementation of this scheme in various States?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA): (a) and (b) The Government has already approved the restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) in 2013 for its implementation during Twelfth Five Year Plan. In the restructured MsDP the unit area of planning has been changed to blocks/towns/cluster of villages instead of district for sharper focus on the minority concentration areas. The programme has now identified 710 Blocks and 66 Towns falling in 196 districts in place of 90 Minority Concentration Districts where the programme was earlier implemented.

(c) Multi-sectoral Development Programme is being implemented by the State/UT Governments. In some of the States, the pace of implementation is slow. The reasons for slow progress are late submission of project proposals by the States, delay in transfer of funds to the implementing agencies by the State Government, delay in deciding executing agencies by the State Government and non-availability of land for some of the projects.

Multi-sectoral development programme for minorities

1519. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALLYAWI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the road map of the present Government for the welfare and upliftment of minorities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the benefit of the schemes such as Multi-Sectoral Development Programme of the previous Government did not reach the Muslims; and

(c) if so, how Government proposes to ensure that the benefit of the schemes reaches the intended beneficiaries positively?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA): (a) Besides implementation of the existing schemes, the present Government has taken following initiatives for the welfare and upliftment of the minority communities:-

- (i) Ustaad:- The Scheme aims at upgrading Skills and Training in preservation of traditional Ancestral Arts/Crafts of minorities.
- (ii) Hamari Darohar:- The Scheme aims to preserve rich heritage of minority communities in context of Indian culture.
- (iii) Khwaza Garib Nawaz Senior Secondary School will be established at Ajmer by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) to give a fillip to minority education.
- (iv) Nai Manzil: A bridge course to bridge the academic and skill development gaps of the deeni Madrasa passouts with their mainstream counterparts.
- (v) Strengthening of State Wakf Boards: The scheme envisages to provide assistance for meeting the training and administrative cost of State Wakf Boards, removal of encroachment from Wakf Properties and also strengthening of Zonal/Regional offices of Wakf Boards.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme of “Seekho aur Kamao”, about 63% minority youths were from Muslim community during last year. Under the scheme of “Nai Roshni”, more than 80% women trainees were from Muslim Community in last two years of the 12th Plan. Under the lending programmes of National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC), about 77.6% beneficiaries were from Muslim community in the last two years of the Twelfth Plan.

During the Twelfth Five Year Plan, 1,60,45,808 scholarships were awarded to minority candidates under Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes, out of which 1,27,83,285 beneficiaries are from the Muslim community.

Further, Multi-Sectoral Development Programme is an area development programme under which infrastructure development and assets creation are done in the Minority

Concentration Areas taking into consideration that tangible and intangible benefits reach the minority population of that area including Muslims.

In view of the above, the benefits of all the schemes implemented by this Ministry are reaching to all notified minority communities including Muslims.

Further, Government has taken following steps to ensure that these benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

- (i) There is a robust mechanism for monitoring the implementation of MsDP. Block Level Committee for MsDP is responsible for monitoring the programme at the block level. The District and State Level Committees for PM's New 15 Point Programme are responsible to review the progress of implementation of the programme at the District and State levels. Further the Empowered Committee at the Centre serves as the Oversight Committee and monitors the implementation of the programme at the national level. The progress under MsDP is also reviewed on half yearly basis by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) along with the PM's New 15 Point Programme. The Committee of Secretaries observations are reviewed by the Union Cabinet on six monthly basis. Monitoring is also done through Conferences at the National, Regional, State and District levels as well as through visits of officials to the project sites.
- (ii) The Scholarship Schemes have been restructured to allow for greater transparency and accountability during processing and sanction. To help evaluation of flow of benefits, segregated data for the different minority communities has now been sought from all Ministries under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme and the States/UTs have also been requested to provide better and timely feedback. The scholarship schemes are reviewed regularly through interaction with the State Governments at regular intervals and field visits by the Ministry officials. The Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS) earlier introduced for the Merit-cum-Means scholarship scheme has now been extended to Post Matric scholarship scheme.
- (iii) Multimedia campaigns *i.e.* publicity through electronic and print media are advertised with greater publicity in Minority Concentration Districts for dissemination of information about the Schemes, and for increasing awareness/coverage among the target beneficiaries of the minorities.