

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government in this connection in order to ensure proper implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) NITI Aayog has conducted an evaluation study on 'Nai Roshni'-the Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women in 2015-16 and prepared a report in June, 2016. The main objective of the study was to assess the impact of the scheme on minority women and to identify policy/programme impediments in implementation of the scheme. The study covered 15 Districts, 30 Blocks, 87 Villages and 27 NGOs spread over 8 (eight) States namely Assam, West Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

According to NITI Aayog, majority of the findings of the study indicate that the programme has been appreciated by most of the segments of the population of the society and it has assisted in creating confidence among minority women and developing leadership spirit in them. Moreover, the trained women are also utilizing their enriched knowledge within their surroundings and thereby helping their families as well as neighbours in raising their essential demands and claims from various Government authorities.

Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres in Odisha

1104. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the prominent features of the proposed Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres to be established in 100 cities in the country;
- (b) the parameters on which the selection of such cities has been made; and
- (c) how many such centres will be opened in the State of Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Ministry of Minority Affairs through its Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) has launched a new scheme namely Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for Minorities. Under this scheme, short term job oriented skill development courses are to be provided to six (6) notified minorities' namely Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi (Zoroastrians) youths so that they may find gainful employment.

(b) and (c) The scheme envisages implementation through Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs) in all parts of the country. The empaneled PIAs would operate the Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres on their premises. In addition to these, the MAEF will also start Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres in association with the State Governments where the infrastructure would be provided by the State Government and the operational cost would be borne by the MAEF. In these Centres, the empaneled PIAs will implement the Skill Development Schemes.

The MAEF has not received any proposal from the State of Odisha to start the Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centre.

Vacancies in Minority Commission

1105. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the sanctioned strength of the Minority Commission members; and
- (b) the number of vacancies exist in the Commission and by when would these vacancies be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) National Commission for Minorities is established under National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. As per Section 3(2) of NCM Act, 1992, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and five members to be nominated by the Central Government.

(b) Two vacancies of members in National Commission for Minorities are being filling up.

Status of Muslim women

1106. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Muslim women are lagging behind the mainstream in terms of women development in the Bahraich, Deoria and Gorakhpur districts of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the status of the Muslim women as per the norm of literacy and line of poverty in the said districts along with the reason therefor; and
- (c) the efforts being made by the Central Government in this regard?