

(b) whether the report objectively examined the nature of persecution faced by religious minority groups in Pakistan, providing case studies on oppression faced by women from minority communities; and

(c) whether Government would use the report for inputs needed to make its own assessment of the plight of minority communities in Pakistan for possible use in international fora on human rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) As per available information, a report has recently been released by a group of five Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) entitled "Religious Minorities in Pakistan" which *inter-alia* highlights the plight of religious minorities in Pakistan who are facing persecution, discrimination, violence, forced conversion, abduction and forced marriage of women/girls belonging to minority communities. The report also highlights that blasphemy laws institutionalise discrimination against religious minorities into codified law.

There have been reports about the problems and persecution faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its constitutional obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community. Based on reports of persecution, discrimination and oppression of minority groups in Pakistan, Government has, from time to time, taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and asked it to take steps to protect and to promote the safety, security and well-being of its minority communities. Concerns in the matter have also been raised at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

#### **Community development projects in various countries**

†652. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of countries including Afghanistan in which community development projects are being run by India;

(b) the details of funds provided for those projects, project-wise and country-wise during the last three years; and

(c) the number of projects out of these which are also meant for the Non-Resident Indians residing there and the details of beneficiaries including Indians from these projects?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Under India's wide-ranging development assistance endeavours, the Government currently implements numerous projects identified as Small Development Projects, High Impact Community Development Projects, and Quick Impact Projects in 10 partner countries, including Afghanistan. The Government has been extending assistance for such projects in diverse sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, water, sanitation, roads and bridges. These projects are taken up in partnership with counterpart Governments for the benefit of local communities in those countries, including Non-Resident Indians who reside there.

(b) There are 484 such ongoing projects in 10 countries valued at over ₹1000 crore. In Afghanistan, the Government has committed US\$ 200 million for implementing the Small Development Projects/High Impact Community Development Projects. Additional details are in Statement-I and II.

**Statement-I**

*Ongoing Project Details*

Sl. No.	Country	No. of projects	Total project cost (rounded off in ₹ crore)	Sectors
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Afghanistan	178	366	Livelihood support, conservation of environment and cultural heritage, empowerment of women, child welfare, education, training, healthcare, agriculture, micro-irrigation, renewable energy etc.
2.	Bangladesh	32	176	Education, culture, healthcare, water, sanitation etc.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bhutan	149	194	Agriculture, water, irrigation, roads and bridges, healthcare, education, housing etc.
4.	Cambodia	1	0.35	Healthcare
5.	Lao PDR	3	1	Agriculture
6.	Myanmar	1	7	Agriculture
7.	Nepal	65	144	Education, healthcare, culture and heritage, women empowerment etc.
8.	Seychelles	32	14	Education, roads, housing etc.
9.	Sri Lanka	18	192	Education, water, housing, culture, agriculture, healthcare etc.
10.	Vietnam	5	2	Agriculture, irrigation, education, roads etc.

**Statement-II**

*The respective Budget Heads of the Ministry of External Affairs, inter-alia, fund the above projects. Year-wise expenditure of the concerned budget heads*

(All figures in ₹ crore)

Country/ Budget Head	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
<b>Expenditure</b>			
ASEAN-ML	10.29	34.70	36.84
Afghanistan	263.02	365.96	469.98
Bangladesh	82.59	78.02	131.81
Bhutan	3441.47	2590.14	2480.49
Myanmar	123.62	223.55	376.23
Nepal	332.72	376.61	763.39
Sri Lanka	99.16	77.89	168.77
Seychelles	49.98	223.16	99.80