

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:162

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Mollah Shri Hannan

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating any `affirmative action` in favour of boys and girls belonging to minority communities in the spheres of education and employment;
- (b) if so, the details of programmes proposed in this regard;
- (c) the funds earmarked for such purpose; and
- (d) the time by which such programme will be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (A.R. ANTULAY)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) and (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 162 FOR 23.08.2007 RAISED BY SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH REGARDING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR MINORITY COMMUNITIES

(a) to (d): A programme of affirmative action for the minorities has already been announced. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, launched in June, 2006, inter-alia, provides for enhancing opportunities for education and ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment by upgradation of skills through technical training and enhanced credit support for self-employment and special consideration to minorities in recruitment to government jobs.

The programme provides for earmarking for the minorities, wherever possible, 15% of outlays and targets of schemes included in the programme and considered amenable to earmarking. For 2007-08, Rs. 102466.07 lakh has been earmarked for the minorities under the schemes in this programme.

In addition, three scholarship schemes have been envisaged exclusively for the minorities viz. a merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels, pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes. The merit-cum-means scholarship scheme has already been approved and States/UTs have been advised to take further appropriate action. Besides, an exclusive coaching & allied scheme for minorities has been announced. The corpus of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been augmented and the equity of the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation further increased in 2007-08 to enable it to expand its operations and coverage.