

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:629
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2006
CREDIT FACILITIES TO MINORITIES
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan;Shukla Smt. Karuna

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce enhanced credit facilities for minorities welfare under the 15-Point Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has directed all cooperative banks to ensure equitable share of credit to minorities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to implement the scheme in letter and spirit?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e): Government has recently finalized a new 'Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities'. One of the objectives of the Programme is to ensure that an appropriate percentage of the credit is targeted for the minority communities and that the benefits of various Government sponsored schemes should reach the under-privileged including the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities.

Accordingly, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks and the Urban Co-operative Banks(UCBs) to issue necessary instructions to their branch offices to ensure that within the overall target for priority sector lending and the sub-target for weaker sections, sufficient care is taken to ensure that the minority communities also receive an equitable portion of the credit.