

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3114  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008  
MUSLIMS LIVING IN ANDAMAN AND NICHOBAR  
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community living in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nichobar Islands;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to improve their living status and bring them to the mainstream?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (A.R. ANTULAY)

(a) and (b): 90 districts have been identified as minority concentration districts in the country, on the basis of the 2001 census data on population, socio-economic indicators and basic amenities indicators. Nicobar district of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is included in the list of such districts.

(c): Government is committed to ensuring the welfare of the minorities. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities which has specific programme interventions to improve the social, economic and educational status of minorities, including Muslims, is a major step in this direction. A multi-sectoral development programme has been formulated to address the development deficits of the 90 identified backward districts including the identified district of Nicobar.