

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3607
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
MUSLIM WOMEN WORKING IN THE BEEDI INDUSTRY
Fanthome Shri Francis

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) any specific steps that have been initiated by the Ministry to provide easy credit to Muslim women working in the `beedi` industry in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

a) to c) This Ministry does not have any scheme for providing credit facilities to people working in specific industries. However, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has been providing microcredit to self-help groups (SHG), consisting of a large number of women belonging to minority communities, through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Microcredit, to the extent of Rs. 25,000 per member of the SHG is available through the NGOs for various income generating activities, including `beedi rolling`. The micro credit is available on concessional terms.