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Title: h Need to take steps to increase literacy rate of Muslim minority for their socio-economic development in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (NIZAMABAD): India has a large number of Muslim population. Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee Report recommended upliftment of the downtrodden Muslim minority in India. In each and every city in the country, most of the Muslim minority live in slums and also undeveloped areas because they cannot afford to pay for higher cost of living.

Twenty five per cent of the Muslim children in the age group of 6-14 years have either never attended school or have dropped out. The percentage of graduates is only 3.6 per cent which is very low compared to other communities and in Andhra Pradesh it is still less.

Students belonging to Muslim minority are discontinuing their studies mostly after Middle School and settling down in self-employment schemes like tailoring, motor cycle repairing, welding works and petty business such as running pan shops, fruits and flowers besides working as labourers. This is mainly because of their inability to pay for education.

Education is the only way to increase the living standards of our Muslim community and also education will equip them with the skills to earn their livelihood. Education among Muslim women is very less. If a mother is properly educated, she will guide her children in their career.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to provide financial help for opening of special schools, colleges, engineering colleges, professional colleges and hostels for Muslim students considering their social and religious sentiments and also provide infrastructure, health care facilities, *pucca* roads for the areas where Muslims are living because most of the Muslims are living in slum areas of Nizamabad, Krishna, Guntur, Kurnool and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh. I also request to change the criteria recommended by Sachar Committee for funding Schemes meant for Muslim minorities from 25% to 15%.