

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 314
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2015**

Law to protect and develop Wakf lands

314: DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to bring about a new law to protect and develop Wakf lands in the country based on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government is planning to increase the corpus fund for the welfare of minorities in the country, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

- (a): Yes, Sir. This Ministry has formulated a new stand-alone legislation named “The Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 2014” to protect Waqf Lands/Properties from encroachment in the country. This Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 18.02.2014 and it was referred to Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for examination and report. The committee, after taking oral evidence of the officers of this Ministry along with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Urban Development and Law & Justice (Legislative Department) submitted its recommendations to Rajya Sabha on 12.08.2015. Draft Cabinet Note incorporating the recommendations of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultation on 16.11.2015.
- (b): Yes, Sir. Government provides funds to the Corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF). During 12th Five Year Plan, the corpus of MAEF has been enhanced up to Rs.1250 crore from Rs.750 Crore in the 11th Plan. During 12th Plan, Government has earmarked Rs.500 crore to be contributed to Corpus of MAEF. Out of this, Rs.386 Crore has already been released to MAEF during 12th Plan and at present a corpus fund of Rs.1136 Crore is available with MAEF.
