

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1744
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2016**

Women Empowerment

**1744. SHRI AJAY NISHAD:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI NAGAR RODMAL:**

Will the Minister of Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the condition of minority women in the country and the problems generally encountered by them, especially in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared/proposes to prepare any action plan for empowerment of women belonging to the minority communities and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any recommendation to this effect from the National Commission for Women; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF
MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

(a) to (c) Keeping in view the low level of literacy among minority women, their socio-economic backwardness, general lack of awareness about Government programmes and social deprivation, Ministry of Minority Affairs implements an exclusive scheme "Nai Roshni" for Leadership Development of Minority Women with an aim to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. The scheme is implemented through selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) all over the country. The scheme provides one week training programmes followed by handholding for a period of one year. The training is provided on various pre-designed Training modules covering issues relating to women viz. Leadership of Women through

participation in decision making, Educational Programmes for women, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behavioural change.

Moreover, to promote education including higher education, Ministry has earmarked minimum 30% seats for minority girls/women in its all educational schemes. For their economic empowerment, minimum 33% seats have been earmarked in all Skill development schemes of the Ministry. Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), an autonomous body under the Ministry, implements an exclusive "Maulana Azad National Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Girls" for scholarship in Class XI and XII. In addition, National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Central Sector Public Enterprise under the Ministry, implements an exclusive scheme for minority women called "Mahila Samridhi Yojana" for their economic empowerment, and also gives preference to women in its lending schemes, particularly Micro-Finance at concessional interest rates.

- (d) and (e) As per information received from National Commission for Women, an Expert Committee was constituted in October, 2013 on violence against women of minority communities and they have included their recommendation in their Annual Report, 2014-15. The general recommendations of the Committee are at **Annexure**. As per the mandate of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, minority women are already being sensitized about their legal rights, health and hygiene, educational programmes, life skills, financial literacy, Social and behavioural change etc. under Nai Roshni scheme. Moreover, Ministry has earmarked minimum 30% seats for minority girls/women in all the educational schemes. For their economic empowerment, minimum 33% seats have been earmarked in all Skill development schemes of the Ministry. MAEF and NMDFC are taking up special programmes for minority girls/women for promoting their education and economic empowerment respectively.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) and (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1744 to be answered on 27.07.2016 regarding 'Women Empowerment' asked by Shri Ajay Nishad; Shri Nishikant Dubey and Shri Nagar Rodmal.

General Recommendations of the Expert Committee of National Commission for Women on Violence against women of Minority Communities in India:

- I. India must declare 2015-2025 as decade for women.
- II. There is lack of data regarding various aspects concern with women of minority communities, which put a big hurdle in the way of policy makers to initiate effective policies/ programmes/ schemes etc. for them. Thus, the government may conduct special census for the population of minority communities.
- III. Mechanisms may be put in place that support and protect those who are committed to eliminating violence against women.
- IV. There is a need to promote and protect the human rights of all women, including their right to have control over their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.
- V. Separate policy frameworks meant for development of all minority communities needs to be undertaken.
- VI. A committee or Commission to set-up along the lines of the Sachar Committee to report social, economic and educational status of each of the non-Muslim minorities with special focus on the issues being faced by women of these minority communities, viz-a-viz social exclusion, discrimination and various forms of social violence.
- VII. Minority organizations/NGOs/Institutions working for the minority women in various field needs to be encouraged and promoted.
- VIII. It is necessary to work with religious leaders, institutions and media in promoting secular democracy and peace building.
- IX. The reproductive health rights of adolescent girls need to be addressed.
- X. Effective steps at all levels should be taken to get rid of illiteracy.
- XI. The government needs to intensify their efforts in the areas with concentration of minority population. The government should consider relaxing distance norm for location of secondary schools for girls in Minority dominated areas.
- XII. In order to increase women's participation in education patriarchal, hierarchical & authoritarian attitude which oppresses and exploits the female segment should be addressed.
- XIII. Under the scheme of 2500 Model Schools in PPP mode at least 10%, i.e., 250 schools should be reserved for religious minorities in proportion to the number of schools sanctioned in each State.

- XIV. The access of minority girls and women students in higher education institutions should be increased based on diversity index.
- XV. Coaching academics for competitive examinations of engineering, medicine, civil services etc. should be setup. MHRD may announce a scheme for providing residential coaching to women students of minority communities.
- XVI. There should be specific skill development activities/ training for women for self-defence/protection.
- XVII. To empower the women, 33% reservation for women in Parliament/ States, is need of the hour.
- XVIII. More awareness and training programmes should be organized on issues related to violence against women and their rights, so that women from minority communities are aware of the provisions under law.
- XIX. Social networking sites may be used to increase awareness regarding minorities women rights, problems and solutions among educated women.
- XX. Community-level initiatives may be undertaken to prevent violence against women from minority communities.
- XXI. Increase women's participation at all levels: cultural, social, economic and political needs to be encouraged and promoted.
- XXII. For promoting peace and social harmony, behavioural change campaigns should be organized to sensitize the community and various stake holders like Government, Civil Societies, Gram Panchayats, Schools etc, on the issues and concerns of minority groups especially women.
- XXIII. Small facilitating centers/drop-in centers should be developed for minority groups so that the centres would act as a coordinating agency between the minority groups and the concerned departments.
- XXIV. A uniform civil code to ensure uniformity in the law to protect the rights of the minority groups particularly women should be enacted.
- XXV. Access to education at all levels and delivery of quality education should be ensured.
- XXVI. Financial assistance and social security schemes should be launched for home-based women workers pertaining to minority groups.
- XXVII. Training, marketing, credit support to be made available for self-employed women of minority community.
- XXVIII. Hold public officials accountable for not complying with laws and regulations relating to violence against women and girls, in order to prevent and respond to such violence in a gender-sensitive manner.
- XXIX. End impunity to avoid the abuse of power leading to violence against women and the re victimization of victims and survivors;
- XXX. Prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women and girls that are perpetrated by the people in positions of authority, such as teachers, religious leaders, political leaders and law enforcement officials, in order to end impunity for these crimes;

- XXXI. A life-cycle approach to end discrimination and violence against women and girls should be adopted to ensure specific issues affecting older women are greater visibility and attention.
- XXXII. An organization which may be a confederation of all minorities including social and educational organizations and institutions at the National level with branches at State, District and Village/ Town levels.
- XXXIII. The Government at the Centre and in the States should adopt a liberal policy in sanctioning grants to educational institutions and industrial units to the minority communities, with special emphasis on women.
- XXXIV. Interactive meetings should be held with the presence of religious and community leaders of the different religions so as to find ways and means of avoiding clashes based on religion and caste and coming up with a charter of demands based on the socio-economic status of oppressed and down-trodden minorities women communities.
- XXXV. The selection of the counsellors needs to be made carefully, with inputs from trained psychologists and psychiatrists. Appointees must include both men and women.
- XXXVI. A dedicated Counselling Helpline run by Counsellors trained to handle cases of gender based discrimination and violence.
- XXXVII. Activating and running an Emergency 24/7 helpline and Quick Response Team (QRT). A Quick Response Team should be in place linked to the 24/7 Emergency Help Line, which can immediately respond in cases of any emergency to the victim of severe violence.
- XXXVIII. The number of women police and officers should be increased. They should be better trained and equipped to deal with situations related to crime against women. May increase the representation of women from minority communities in the police force.
- XXXIX. Police personnel should be trained through regular programmes of gender sensitization.
 - XL. The government needs to expedite the proposed Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005 "with the incorporation of: sexual and gender-based crimes, including mass crimes against women perpetrated during communal violence; a comprehensive system of reparations for victims of such crimes; and gender-sensitive victim-centred procedural and evidentiary rules, and to ensure that inaction or complicity of State officials in communal violence to urgently addressed under this legislation".
 - XLI. Government needs to take the next step towards comprehensive reforms outlined in the Justice Verma Committee report, and amend the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and the Representation of People Act, 1951 to erase immunity and instill accountability across all institutions.
 - XLII. Non-political, an independent, permanent and centralized institutional mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the schemes of the government should be put in place, to assess whether 15% target for

minorities is being identified and achieved, both in physical and financial terms. Especially a mechanism should be place which can tell how much women from minority communities benefitted and progressed, from the various schemes/policies/programmes etc.

XLIII. Reservation for minority's women at par with SCs/STs should be given.

XLIV. A Parliamentary Committee for Minority Welfare, on lines for SC/ST Committee may be established.

XLV. On the issues like adverse sex ratio, violence against women, violence under the garb of religious practices and codes, etc, studies should be undertaken.
