

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, March 15, 2011/ Phalgun 24, 1932 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

I. Denial of justice to the families of those killed and injured in Kashmir Valley

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: The people of Jammu and Kashmir, in particular the families of those whose children were killed in the unfortunate incidents last year, are suffering continuous denial of justice. 117 young people were killed in the valley, not a single official, not even a constable has been punished. Out of 117 deaths, only 37 FIRs have been registered. No inquiries have been made so far. An independent inquiry commission, with impartial people, to take strong action against those responsible, should be set up. Indiscriminate arrests are taking place in the Valley. This is very unfortunate. Women are facing humiliation in various forms.

(Shrimati Viplove Thakur, Shri D. Raja, Shri H.K Dua, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and Shri Shivanand Tiwari associated.)

II. Problems being faced by common man due to agitation by Jat community in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Jat community is continuously agitating since 8th February, 2010 in support of their

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

demands in Delhi and surrounding areas. Train services have been disrupted leading to traffic and other disturbances. So much time has been lapsed since a mass agitation is going on and people are agitated. Whether, Government wants it to take a form of outrageous disturbance? The Jat community has kept the agitation very controlled, disciplined and peaceful so far. But if their demands are neglected, their reaction may take any other form. The government should come forward and extend its support in addressing their demands.

(*Shri Avinash Rai Khanna and Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Singh associated.*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): In this regard, the government will give a statement tomorrow.

III. Revelation in Wikileaks about denial by America in providing evidences relating to 26/11

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: The latest Wikileaks reveals US pressure on India and the Pro-US positions of our Government on several issues. India was not ready to share the information of Mumbai attacks' investigation to Pakistan but after continuous pressure of US, the government agreed to share the information with Pakistan. Whereas, US is not ready to hand over David Headley to India, the main accused of Mumbai attacks. It reveals that even cabinet reshuffle was made in US favour. This is very shameful.

(*Shri Tarun Vijay associated.*)

IV. Problems of employees of Passport Office

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: The passport office employees are protesting and agitating for not honouring the 'Agreed Minutes of Joint Committee' held with hon'ble Union Minister for External Affairs'. It is unfortunate the Department is implementing only PSK part of the agreement and ignoring the other two parts of the agreement related with service welfare and job security of employees

in the Passport Office. The Department should not accept the demand of private business company to have the sole right of submission of all kinds of passport application forms with commission on each application amounting to Rs.200 as this will result handing over 75 percent of passport issuance system to private players. Number of passports have been increased while the strength of staff has been reduced. The vacant posts should be filled by promoting CPO personnel. I demand that the Government should immediately intervene and solve the problems of passport employees at the earliest.

(Shri D. Raja associated.)

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The situation arising out of the utilisation of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the situation arising out of the utilisation of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): As per available estimates, cultivable land has marginally decreased from 182.74 million hectare in 2005-06 to 182.38 million hectare in 2008-09 across the country. This decline has, however, not affected production of foodgrains which has increased from 208.60 million tonnes in 2005-06 to 232.07 million tonnes in 2010-2011 (as per 2nd advanced estimates). This has been possible due to various technological advancements in agricultural sector as well as on account of positive impact of various Watershed Development Programmes which has resulted in increasing gross cropped area from 193.32 million hectare in 2005-06 to 195.10

million hectare in 2008-09. These interventions have in a way ensured that net area sown remains largely unchanged at 141 million hectare in last decade.

The Ministry of Agriculture is aware of increasing demand of foodgrains due to increase in population. Accordingly, Government of India has intensified various initiatives under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHm), National Mission for Micro-Irrigation and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with a view to increase the productivity of agriculture land and also to sustain the foodgrain production across the country.

As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under purview of State Governments and, therefore, it is for State Governments to bring in suitable Policy/Act/Legislations to check the conversion of agriculture land for non-agricultural purpose.

With a view to prevent the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and sustaining food security across the country, Government of India has also taken several steps in this context. Some of the major policy initiatives for prevention of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes are as under:

a) National Policy for Farmers, 2007 (NPF 2007)

The National Policy for Farmers, 2007 (NPF 2007) formulated by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has recommended that 'prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture except under exceptional circumstances, provided that the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded/ wastelands elsewhere. For non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated.' State governments have been advised to 'earmark land with low biological potential such as uncultivable land,

land affected by salinity, acidity, etc, for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. '

b) **National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP, 2007)**

The National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP, 2007) formulated by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources has recommended that 'only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of a project may be acquired. Also, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wasteland, degraded land or un-irrigated land. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural use in the project may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped land may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum. '

These policies have been sent to all States/UTs for implementation.

c) **Policy in case of Special Economic Zone (SEZ)**

Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) have constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) to consider issues related to SEZs. EGOM at its meeting held on 5th April, 2007 recommended that:

- In respect of pending applications for SEZs, these may be processed for in-principle formal approval and notifications, subject to the condition that the state Government would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs.
- Upper limit of area required for multi product SEZs to be fixed at 5000 hectare. However, State Governments may prescribe a lower limit.
- A comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy be worked out ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

Based on the above recommendations, Government of India has decided that Board of Approval (BoA) will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007. However, cases in which all persons interested in the land either have not submitted any objection or have withdrawn objections and have thus acquiesced in the proposed acquisition of land may be considered. In other cases, where there are objections the Collector/Acquiring Authority may not proceed with the acquisition for the purpose of SEZ and such cases, if any, brought before the Board of Approval may not be considered.

The above policy measures have been instrumental in utilization of barren land for non-agricultural purposes, which is evident from the decrease in total barren lands from 17.44 million ha. in 2005-06 to 17.02 million ha. in 2008-09.

The Minister, replying to the points raised by Hon'ble Members, said: The various States have power to utilize their lands as per their needs. The Government has formulated some policies to prevent the utilization of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. In the National Agricultural Policy of 2007, we have stipulated that we will utilize barren lands for non-agricultural purposes. If the State Governments want to set up an industry, they should use waste land for the purpose. For the rehabilitation purposes, minimum area of the irrigated land will be acquired. The 'SEZ' scheme is a State subject. If a land is provided to the SEZ, similar area of waste land will be converted by them into fertile land. The maximum limit of land for that purpose has been fixed as 5 thousand hectare.

It has been said that the area of net sown land has shrunk. But, I would like to remind that the production of foodgrains has increased from 208 million tonnes to 232 million tonnes. Similarly, the area of barren land has decreased from 17.44 million hectare in 2005-06 to 17.02 million hectare in 2008-09. We have made efforts to convert infertile land into fertile land. Under the Watershed Development Programme, the gross cropped area has also increased.

The Government is sensitive towards the farmers. The Government is running various programmes to convert barren land into fertile land.

Discussion on the working of Ministry of Minority Affairs- *Contd.*

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: The department's allocation of business includes 'linguistic minorities' also but the Linguistic Minorities Commission does not fall within the purview of article 30 of the Constitution of India. As this has been created under an executive order, it has no adjudicatory powers. More powers should be given to it and it should be brought under the ambit of NCMEI and NCMEI should be brought under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Though, the educationally backward blocks have been identified from April 2008, the number of schools have not been substantially increased. The Government should pay special attention to the education of the Muslim minority girls. No steps have been taken to restructuring the National Minority Development Finance Corporation in grameen style so far, as earlier proposed. The facility of pre-matric, post-matric and merit cum means scholarships should be given to minority students. All the welfare schemes which are being identified by the Ministry, should be passed on to the specially identified districts and towns. In what way the minority population of this country is better than the backward classes and the scheduled castes people. Equity contribution should not be insisted by the NMDFC. The annual income ceiling should be raised both for urban and rural areas. State Minority Commission is empowered to sanction loan upto Rs. 1 lakh only. The Ministry should raise this limit upto Rs.5 Lakh. Three percent education loan scheme should be made fully interest free. The word 'interest' should be replaced with the word 'administrative charges'.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): There are about 250 million minorities in our country. The purpose of the Ministry is to see that social justice is provided to every citizen,

including the minorities. Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) have empowered the Government to remove the discrimination and unequal treatment. The Government has taken several measures to implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, but the implementation process is slow and tardy. Establishment of equal opportunity commission, establishment of Wakf Development Corporation and establishment of data bank has not been done. This Report should be implemented in letter and spirit. It is constitutionally valid to have reservation under Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) to remove the discrimination or unequal treatment. Government should take an early decision regarding the recommendations of the Ranganath Misra Commission Report.

There are massive scholarship programmes for the minorities. Muslim community is the most backward in the field of education. The drop-out rate at the level of 7th standard is 93.5 per cent in Karnataka. Some steps on a war-footing should be taken to set the things right. The requirement of scholarships should be demand-driven. The Government should consider and extend whatever is applicable to the SCs and STs in the field of education to this community also.

The Minority Concentrated District Programme has not been implemented. Some of the State Governments are not contributing for it. The amount earmarked for this programme has not been spent. It is better to have blocks as the criterion instead of Minority Concentrated District. The Wakf properties in this country consist of more than 4 lakh acres of land. Out of these, 2 lakh acres are under encroachment or under dispute. If these properties are developed, Muslim community does not need help from anywhere. I appeal to the Minister to have a vision document on Wakf development. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf has submitted a comprehensive Report which deals with various aspects of Wakf, but still there is no ATR on the JPC Report.

We don't need Government funds. 15 crore Muslims of the country should contribute for their own development. Not a single

property has been developed by the Wakf Boards. A Wakf Development Corporation at the national level should be set up. There is a need for drastic changes in the Wakf Act, transparency in the appointments of the members of Wakf Boards and a dispute settlement mechanism. The Muslim Community has never asked for the subsidy on Haj. Air India is charging Rs. 85,000 per Haji whereas going to Jeddah and coming back is only Rs.35,000 or even less. How can we justify this cost of Rs. 85,000? There is no need for subsidy. A logistic corporation can be created in this matter and they can manage its affairs.

They want to create an institutional mechanism to save money for their own development. Mutual fund is a part of the Islamic economic approach. If the community wants to create a similar institutional mechanism, they say that they cannot do it. All the European countries including USA have given this facility. Our country should also do the same. Then, they will also be able to save money through this mechanism.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: It appears that the Ministry of Minority Affairs belongs to only one community. This Ministry has been created to protect the provisions relating to inequality mentioned in the Constitution. There is a mention about the Representation of Anglo-Indian community in point number 7 of 'Allocation of Business'. The said provision is provided even today in the new States when they are created whereas all the Britishers have left the country.

A historical Gurudwara in Lahore was sold recently by declaring it as an evacuee property and our Government kept watching the scene silently. The Government should have discussed this matter with Pakistani Government through the Ministry of External Affairs. It was very much under the purview of the Government to stop the selling of the Gurudwara, but nothing like this was done. The Ministry never makes an effort to raise the voice for protection of the sites and marks created by Sikhs in Pakistan.

The Sikh Community never spreads its hands in front of anyone inspite of being a minority. The Sikhs living outside Punjab

should be given the right to recruitment in accordance with the population there. Sikhs should be given 15 per cent jobs under minority reservation policy of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in the recruitment centres of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, *Tarai* region, Ganganagar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa. Then only it will appear that the Ministry of Minority Affairs is actually working for the minorities. The loan amount in the budget of Minority Finance Corporation is only 25,000 rupees, which is very less.

If you want to uplift the Minorities, then why don't you give them loan guarantee of Rs. 25 lakhs? You are ridiculing the Minorities. The task of the Department of Minority Affairs is to give protection to minority people. The people of Minority community want to live with respect. While formulating schemes for the Minorities, they are not consulted. If that was the case, then 15 points programmes would not have been formulated.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: The idea of appeasement of Muslims in this country is a misconception. After the presentation of the report of Rajinder Sacchar Committee and the report of Ranganath Mishra Commission, it was clear that specially Muslim Community is living in pathetic condition. If the recommendations of the Sacchar Committee are implemented, the Muslim Community can undergo a dramatic change. Backwardness of Muslim Community should be treated as a national problem. National average of literacy is 65.1 percent, whereas literacy average of Muslim Community is 59.1 percent. The Muslim Community is suffering most from the problem of unemployment. The populated areas of Muslim Community are lacking in infrastructure. Their number is negligible in government services. Maulana Azad Foundation should be made effective by increasing its corpus fund. The ratio of loan being provided should be increased. The working of the Waqf board should be streamlined so that the problems of education and self finance could be resolved. 15 points programme of the Prime Minister should be implemented properly. Efforts should be made to take this programme to block level. Scholarship should be extended. Programmes should be

monitored by establishing monitoring system. Dalit Muslims should be given their rights.

SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Keeping in view population of the Minorities, less fund has been provided in this department. Every department should spend at least 15 percent of total allocation for the development of the Minorities. The Government has no system for knowing percentage of representation of Minority Community in the development process. Due to this, their development is not possible. 90 districts of large population of Minority Community have been brought under multi sector development but people of Minority Community also live in inaccessible areas. They are living in pathetic condition. They are segregated from society. Government should think seriously about them. Government should take initiative for the solution of their problems. Some changes should be made in the programmes. Christian people feel that they are being neglected. Priority should be given for their educational development.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: In the year 2010-11, people of Minority Community were provided only Rs. 497 under per capita plan expenditure. How can development of Minority Community can be thought of with such a meagre amount. Only 5 percent is spent for them in various schemes under planned expenditure. I request that this amount should be increased. Attention should be given towards Waqf board. They should be given opportunity to live life respectfully. Minority Finance Corporation should raise the limit of Rs. 25,000. The programmes formulated by the officers for the Muslim populated areas are not implemented. Unless Minority Community is provided education and made self dependent, the work of the Ministry of Minority Affairs will not be completed.

Such schemes should be formulated which may generate self-employment opportunities. Muslims should be given more opportunities in MNREGA. Discrimination in disbursement of bank loans against all religious minorities should be stopped. Sachar Committee has made a number of suggestions with regard to Muslim Community. There should be separate sub-plan for development of

Muslims. Concept of Islamic Bank should be introduced. I would like to draw attention towards non-payment of compensation to affected Sikh families of 1984 riots. These families should be paid compensation. There are about 70,000 Parsis in the country. Government should pay attention to them. Present Government has made good schemes for minorities. I request the Minister concerned to pay special attention to monitoring and implementation of schemes related to minorities.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: The minorities, especially the Muslim minorities, have suffered discrimination and deprivation for the past more than six decades and they were kept out of the process of development. Minorities constitute 18.42 per cent as per the 2001 Census. But the total allocation of the Budget is only 6 per cent and now it has declined to 5.3 per cent this year. Only Rs.7000 crore were allotted for minorities in Eleventh Five Year Plan. This is really miserable seeing the strength of the minorities in our country.

The proportion of expenditure of total project is around 23.5 per cent after four years of implementation. The performance is very poor while Minister of Minority Affairs is sincerely trying to implement all these schemes. I think, the reason is that the field officers, who have to implement all these programmes, are not from the Ministry of Minority Affairs. These officers are deputed from various other departments. Sachar Committee had suggested with regard to creation of Indian Wakf Services. There can be good changes brought about if we implement this suggestion. It is already pointed out in the 15-point Programme that priority should be given to minorities in the loans. We are seeing that the RBI guidelines are also being violated. I don't think that even 4 to 5 per cent loans are being given to them. The MSDP restricted to only 90 districts, we are told that another 30 districts will be added. The suggestion given by our Deputy Chairman to bring not the districts, but the blocks, will be more fruitful. Parameter of 30 per cent population of muslim should be reduced to 15 per cent by this way we can cover more population. Sachar Committee has given certain recommendations about certain affirmative actions and creating some agencies. Scholarship scheme

is very good but it has to be made demand driven. Most of the people are not in a position to be covered due to the constraint in the allotment. The Wakf Act should also be taken into consideration. Out of 1,86,000 Wakf properties, 168,000 properties are already encroached upon.

DR. (SMT.) KAPILA VATSYAYAN: This country is a country of plurals societies and cultural diversity where my little finger was as important as my head. That is the paradigm of this Indian cultural civilisational model. Points have been raised here in terms of the Constitutional provisions are well taken. Can we say that all the Christians in the North East are not tribal? There has to be an integral approach to this. Many of the minorities are specialized workers. Their specialized skills are not taken into cognizance in the formal system of education at all. Now, none of this is taken into consideration at the policy level because it gets fragmented. So, my humble submission is that there should be a coordinating mechanism within the entire Executive. Outside things are taking up political positions. Complexity has to be addressed with seriousness because at this time, we are at a position where many of the knowledge systems and their holders within the minorities are going to languish and perish, and, then, we shall be going back to the foreign countries to know our own heritage.

SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI: Matters of all religious minorities have become too complex that now a full-time Ministry is required for it. All the people, who were talking about appeasement of minorities, are now realizing the change coming in the society. They should accept the change. If it is a matter of right then it should be expressed. We welcome such change. Many things have been said about Sachar Committee. Prime Minister's 15-point Programme is the first programme about welfare of minorities. I appreciate the work done by the UPA Government for minorities. Today, if someone does not talk about muslims, then his secularism will become questionable. Implementation of schemes is very slow. The Budget of the Ministry of Minority Affairs should be increased and should be used in proper manner.

Most of the State Governments are not implementing the schemes about minorities. Some State Governments have made their own schemes. Minorities are being ignored since last 60 years. Whether another 60 years will be taken for their development? Minorities need only their due rights.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: I have decided to take part in the discussion on Ministry of the Minority Affairs intentionally. Majorities should understand the problems of minorities. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Parsis have been classified as minorities in our Constitution. We are not Pakistan which selected only one religion. Jinnah's ideology was to give equal rights to all minorities. But, Pakistan has deviated from that stand. India's approach at that time was collective. That is why, today, we are growing at the rate of 9 percent.

We should change our outlook in respect of the minorities. Their heritage sites should be protected and for this purpose, we should hold talks with Pakistan. We should prevent Gurudwaras from being sold there. Choudhary Sujat Hussain, who was a Minister in Pakistan, had shown a good gesture by renovating the temples thereof.

The minorities have contributed immensely towards the prosperity and integrity of the country. We have taken advantages from the hybrid culture and common heritage. The Sikhs have imparted their contribution to the economy of the country. The peace-loving community of Christians has continuously made contribution towards the national progress. The industrial families of Parsis have also contributed to the economic development. In respect of dalits, the Buddhist community has made great contributions.

That is why the Government has increased the budgetary allocation for them from Rs.500 crores to Rs.2850 crores. The advantage of this fund must be earned by the minorities. 95 percent of the amount is distributed through the State Governments. I am sorry to say that the needy people are deprived of its advantages. The youths of the minority community should be assisted properly if they want to start some job. In respect of education, the Muslim community is the

most backward. The facilities, they want, are not made available properly. Similarly, we should promote the education of girls.

It is very important that the funds being provided by National Minority Development and Finance Corporation should reach the people whom it is meant for. The programmes for skill training should be enhanced. The allocation of funds made include the provision to curb the riots in the country and I would say that we have to change our mindset and strengthen our relations. There are some people with vested interest who spread rumors and we have to tackle this tendency. Ours is composite culture and we have to recognize it.

SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI : I agree that we have to change our mindset and bring the minorities into mainstream of the country. Nobody would like that a poor muslim, a poor Sikh or a poor Christian should live below the poverty line. We want their progress. The question is as to why the Ministry of Minority Affairs was created. In fact, there was a politics of vote bank in the country and therefore, this Ministry came into existence. The muslim people have voted you and despite of that, their condition is not good. The definition of minority is yet not clear. The Government have to clarify its policy in this aspect. The two words, socialism and secularism, were inserted in the constitution at the time of emergency and these are being misinterpreted.

There are three factors viz. poverty, lack of education and empowerment of women, which are significant for muslims and we have to work for it. I agree that if we want to eradicate poverty in the country, we have to educate our women and our society. I would like to state that today the muslims in Gujarat are happy and the number of people going for 'Haj' is maximum from Gujarat as compared to other States. There is a large number of muslims in Kutch and I demand that some arrangement should be made to go for Haj from Jam Nagar or Kutch. Besides, a survey of 'Wakf' properties should be carried out. The amount being given for development of minorities must be interest free so that 15 Point Programme could be implemented in better way.

SHRI SABIR ALI: The Government which is in power today, have ruled the nation for 55 years but the condition of minorities have worsened. This Ministry has got an amount of only Rs.2866 crore for a minority population of 20 crores and moreover, 40 per cent funds do not reach the genuine people. You formulate the policy but your intent is not true and you have to change it. Apart from this, there is no Standing Committee, no Coordination Committee in this Ministry. You have formulated 15 Point Programme but nothing concrete work has been done under this programme. I would also say that the help should also be extended to power loom workers because previously, these workers were working on handlooms.

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: The creation of this Ministry has provided a window to the muslims and other minorities for their welfare but the schemes made for them have not been fully implemented. The Government is encroaching upon the properties of 'Wakf' and also, the lands of muslims are being taken over in the name of Enemy Properties. An element of appeasement is being talked about. Aligarh Muslim University is a residential university and no centre can be opened there but centres were opened there by giving false information. An amount of 50 crore rupees was given there and I would ask what is it if not appeasement? Today no muslim institution exists in the list of minority institutions. It was told that three muslim universities would be set up on the lands of 'Wakf' but it remained only as an announcement. This Ministry was created to protect the rights of minority and so, we have to give powers to it.

They still think us as enemy even after 65 years of independence. A bill is brought in Delhi, Punjab and various other places which deal with those enemy properties which belong to Pakistan, but they are situated in India. We approach Ministry of Minority Affairs almost daily and the Minister replies that he does not have authority. We asked about resolving issues related with Jamia University and Aligarh Muslim University. The reply we got that they do not come under the purview of Ministry of Minority Affairs. As regards employment, I would like to state that only 10,500 people

belonging to Minority Community were recruited in government jobs out of entire 1,45,594 vacancies in the last year, which is below 7 per cent.

SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Our intention is above board. I would like to submit that it was envisaged by the Congress Party that our younger brothers, who are lagging behind on the path of development, it should bring them into mainstream and formulate 15 point programme. It means that we want to uplift economic, educational and social levels of Muslims and other sections of Minority Communities. The Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in the year 2006. During UPA-I Sachar Committee was constituted in the year 2006. But action taken report on it could not be formulated. The Rangnath Commission was constituted in 2007 and recommended reservation for Muslims.

The Maulana Azad Foundation provides scholarships to those children who got 50 per cent marks. But it has been stipulated with it that those persons who have 2 children would not get benefit under it. There has also been talk about multi sectoral development and 90 districts have been identified under it. But there is not a single district of Rajasthan in it because of 25 per cent barricade. As regards issue of leadership, it has been stipulated with it that NGOs having a corpus of Rs. 2 crores could only participate under it. A condition has been put in place regarding National Minority Development Financial Corporation that if somebody wants to take loan at a reduced rate of interest, he would have to provide guarantee from a government officer. If you want to increase the numbers of Muslims in professional or technical education, you would have to remove such barricades from there.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: According to the Sachar Committee Report condition of Muslims amongst minority communities is worse than dalits. There level of education, conditions of job opportunities and economic condition are very pathetic. There are many muslims who are innocents and they are still languishing in the jails. Nobody pays attention to them. You should also implement the Rangnath Commission Report. A very large numbers of Muslims live in

the State of Bihar. But as on today no university has been opened over there because Government is reluctant to provide land for it. You had also identified 90 districts across the country under MCDP Scheme. Seven districts of Bihar are also under it. But it seems that the fund which has been provided for it, is not being approved. You should have a monitoring system for it. In Bihar, wakf property is also being looted to a very large extent. You should have some concrete measures to check it. I would also like to submit that in order to uplift such a huge population of people of minority community and also bring them into mainstream of development, you should implement the report of the Sachar Committee and also provide reservation to them.

SHRI Mohd. ALI KHAN: I represent this house from an area which adopted the manifesto of the Congress after 2000 and which for the sake of the minorities agitated not only Andhra Pradesh but the entire nation. Efforts were made to uplift the SCs/STs and minorities from poverty, for their educational problems, for their scholarship and for their school fees and the same enforced. But not any district of Andhra Pradesh was selected to be in MHD. I hope that you would certainly include those districts of Andhra Pradesh for the representation of minorities therein. All the programmes for the implementation thereof you have constituted the State or district level Committees are by and large doing well. Nodal officers must be appointed everywhere. People are not being benefited thereby for want of Nodal officers at district or State level.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: In Assam, the people belonging to the minority communities are suffering due to lack of social security, development and proper education. They are being deprived of their legitimate demands, rights and education. We constituted the Minority Development Ministry and the Minority Development Corporation. It should be an eye-opener for the Centre. It is laudable that the problems of the minorities have been now taken up seriously formulating a 15-point programme development of the minorities.

A special programme should be started for the development of the agricultural community in the minority area. In Assam, a large number of minority people are affected every year due to flood and erosion. The Government should take immediate possible steps to stop further erosion of the river. The Government should also start a special rehabilitation programme for the flood and erosion-affected minority people. Budget allocation has been very meagre. Sachar Committee's recommendations have not been implemented properly till date. The Government should make sincere efforts to implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee Report. What has been spent in the name of the development of minorities, 80 per cent of that fund has not been properly utilized because of corruption. It should be enquired into. Madarsa should be equipped with a proper building, computers and other vocational training facilities.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR: As regards the SCs/STs and minorities, congress has always felt that from educational, economic and social point of view they may come into the mainstream and immediate steps were taken in this regard. Some people say that this is nothing but an appeasement policy. The Government have worked out for their education and employment. The rate of interest in the Minority Development Finance Board may be reduced more. They may be granted exemption for six months or one year. It should also be monitored. We shall have to think in some cases above the party line. For the people belonging to minority communities lagging behind the mainstream, efforts should be made for their educational, economical, employment and social upliftment.

SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: The population of the Sikh in this country is 1.5 per cent. In the freedom movement of the country, the Sikhs have sacrificed themselves for the 80 per cent of the population. We do not ask for anything. We want honour. Our Gurudwaras are grabbed in Pakistan or Iran and Iraq. Our religious signs are insulted. In our own country no one comes to

oppose it. The Government of the country keeps mum thereon. Prior independence the number of Sikhs in armed forces happened to be about 30 per cent. Now recruitment in the armed forces shall be made on the basis of population. Our water is blocked. Our industries are vanishing. Now what else do we have? There is no fair price for foodgrains.

Whether the genocide of 1984 was correct. After 26 years it is coming to light that how the genocide was made. The FIR lodged is missing. Was anybody hanged in this case. Is it the justice with the Minority? An M.P was made accused but the charge sheet was not filed as yet.

Provision of grants alone does not serve the purpose. The country can be governed neither by money, nor by post, but by unity. This country can be governed by justice alone.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Issue related to Airlines Pilots' licences

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): On 11th January, 2011 at Goa, an incident of an Indigo Airlines aircraft landing on its nose-wheel was reported and the licence of the Commander, Capt. (MS) Parminder Kaur Gulati, was suspended by the Directorate General the inquiry, it came to light that there have been other instances in the past of the same Commander exhibiting similar deficiencies in landing technique.

The DGCA decided to examine her entire record including records relating to her Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL). During this verification, it was discovered that Ms. Gulati had submitted her result card of having passed the pilot examination. However, verification with database available with Central Examination Organisation (CEO) of DGCA revealed that Ms. Gulati had not passed the exam. As the result card submitted by the

candidate was fraudulent, the DGCA filed an FIR and the Crime Branch of Delhi Police initiated investigation.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation conducts pilot licence written examination 8 times in different months throughout the year. A candidate is required to pass all the papers of such written examination and acquire minimum necessary flying hours for obtaining a pilot licence in various categories such as Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) and Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL). To obtain an ATPL, a candidate is required to pass written and oral examination in Air Navigation, Aviation Meteorology, Radio Aids & Instruments papers and acquire a minimum of 1500 flying hours.

The Central Examination Organisation (CEO) of DGCA conducts written examination and issue result card to the passed candidates. The entire history of the candidates such as the session of examination, the computer number, the roll number, the papers appeared, the marks obtained by the candidates are preserved in a secured computerised database. The candidate is required to produce the result card along with other documents such as Flying Log books etc. to the Directorate of Training & Licensing for issue of licence. There are about 4500 ATPLs issued by the DGCA till date.

In view of the above occurrence, I had directed the DGCA to examine the pilot licences (ATPL) issued during the last one year as an initial step. The DGCA while examining the ATPL issued during this period has detected three more cases of submitting forged result card (mark sheet) for obtaining ATPL and FIR has been lodged against the following three pilots

1. Capt. Swaran Singh Talwar, MDLR Airlines;
2. Capt. Meenakshi Singhal, Indigo Airlines; and
3. Capt. J.K. Verma, Air India.

I have directed the DGCA to examine all the pilot licences issued in the past and to establish a procedure for more detailed verification while issuing such licences. I also propose to set up an

Expert Committee in the Ministry to examine the current examination system, need for introduction of e-technology, new procedures and process and effective system of cross-verification of documents filed by candidates for various licences in DGCA.

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V. K. AGNIHOTRI,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

****Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.