 “On the eve of Minority Day”

New Delhi, 17th December 2019 Press Release

Report: **Minority Empowerment in India – Time to think beyond politics**

* **Complaints received at National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in 2016/17 to 2018/19**, Total 5016 out of which **73.82%** were received from Muslims (3703 complaints in all) and **6.77%** by Sikhs (340 complaints in all) and **6.69%** by Christians (336 complaints in all) and **2.91%** by Jains ( 146 complaints in all) and **2.1%** by Buddhist (106 complaints in all).
* Less than three & half month to go; Very low budget utilization of Minority Affair Ministry as per Govt. own disclosure.
* Very slow progress on Sachar Committee recommendations even after 13 years, Minority of India need empowerment and education and it’s high time to thing beyond politics.

The United Nations in its declaration of 18 December 1992 resolved that "States shall protect the existence of the National or Ethnic, Cultural, Religious and Linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity.”

India has a multi-religious social composition coupled with regional socio-economic diversity which makes it unique for its ***‘unity in diversity’*** culture. India has around 2000-odd castes, eight "major" religions and 15-odd languages spoken in various dialects in 22 states and 9 union territories, and a substantial number of tribes and sects. Governments including National Commission for Minorities and civil society groups has been observing the 18th December as a Minorities Rights Day every year since 2013. With the objective to create awareness on rights of the minorities, apolitical NGO “The Vision Foundation” prepared a report based on data available on website of Govt. of India and found that from low utilization of budget to ineffective implementation developmental scheme meant for minority in India.

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**Budget Utilization of Minority Affair Ministry FY 2019-20 in 8.5 Months**

Many reports including National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) headed by Justice Ranganth Mishra (2007), Justice Sachhar Report (High Level Committee on the Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India) and later Professor Kundu Committee (2013) certified that ***“development deficit”*** and big developmental disparity among majority and minorities particularly rural Muslims in India.

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**The famous Sachar Committee** **Report highlighted a range of disabilities faced by the community and made recommendations to address the situation. It placed Indian Muslims below Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on level of backwardness**. Out of 76 recommendations, 72 were accepted and 43 decisions were taken under overall seven heads.

Committee’s report was laid in Parliament on 30.11.2006, but after 13 years, only symbolic improvements were recorded. (refer to Report data on Sachar Committee report progress as on 31.03.2019).

Ministry of Minority Affairs was established on 29th January 2006, with mandate to formulate of policies, schemes and programs for welfare and socio-economic development of 6 (six) notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsi and Jains which constitute more than 19% of India’s population.

At a Policy priority point of view, from the 11 & 12th five-year Plans for inclusive growth, or Prime Minister’s 15-Point Program for the Welfare of Minorities (15 PP) of 2006,or Multi-Sectoral Development Program (MsDP) of 2008 to address the shortfalls in basic amenities, education and employment in the minority-concentrated areas, many efforts & claims were made . However, after analyzing the socio-economic conditions of the minority particularly based on Government data, it has not changed a lot and most of government interventions proved to be ineffective.

“Ministry claimed to adopt a multi-pronged strategy for development of minority communities, but analysis of data & budget utilization report of ministry show that impact is minimal and less effective.” Said Zafar Hussain Founder General Secretary of ‘The Vision Foundation’ – NGO working for all section of society.

“After more than 70 year of independence, stakeholders including all political parties must treat and think minority beyond politics and work for empowerment with education by effective utilization of allocated public resources, that will be real contributions towards minority welfare in India.” said Shri Ashutosh Kumar, the treasurer of ‘The Vision Foundation’.

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