

Interactive Meeting with
Mr K Rahman Khan,
Union Minister of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Organized by



Institute of Objective Studies

At Dy. Chairman Hall, Constitution Club,

New Delhi

November 14, 2012

This presentation is summarizing the views of...

- Retired Judges
- Senior Advocates
- University Professors
- Academicians
- Activists
- Experts; and
- Youth

In this Presentation

- Overview
- Focus on 6 major subjects:
 1. Insecurity and fear-psychosis, especially among Muslim youth
 2. Education
 3. Economy
 4. Employment
 5. Awqaf
 6. Research
- Within each vast subject, there are several issues; our attempt is to prioritize the issues and present action plans to achieve the desired results.

Overview-I

- **Opportunity** for Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) to develop, strengthen its three distinct roles:
 - a) In the administration of programmes / schemes **directly under MoMA**
 - b) MoMA as **a nodal Ministry** for the PM's 15-point programme;
Ensuring the key 15-16 Ministries at the Centre and all State govts are meeting the objectives and adhering to the guidelines given in the PM's 15-point programme
 - c) MoMA as **a coordinating Ministry** for all existing programmes with other Ministries, states; Pursuing the Central Ministries / State governments to meet objectives / targets for minority welfare which are Constitutionally guaranteed, and integral to our nation-building process, ensuring justice, equality, liberty for all citizens in our democracy

Overview-II

- **Challenges** before MoMA: Ensuring **implementation, audit** and **redressal** of existing Central and State schemes for minorities
 - High standards of **accountability** and **transparency** to be maintained by MoMA in the public domain
 - Bottlenecks in implementation to be identified;
Suitable **speedy action** taken

Overview-III

- **Expectations** from MoMA: **Implementation** of recommendations of Sachar Committee / Ranganatha Mishra other reports
- Expectations from government and party : Fulfil election manifesto promises
 - MoMA to a) evaluate, b) monitor and c) suggest measures to government and party to come out with schemes; meeting these targets are important in more ways than one
- **Streamlining administration** of existing statutory bodies under MoMA: National Minorities Commission, Maulana Azad Education Foundation, Minorities Finance Corporation, Central Waqf Council, Central Hajj Committee etc.
 - Greater **accountability, transparency** to be maintained in the public domain

Overview-IV

- **Rise in incidences of communal violence** in India, especially in UP, Bihar, Assam, North-eastern states;

Police encounters on the rise in states like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh

- Need for speedy justice, focus on pending legislative measures, coordination with civil liberties groups, confidence-building measures among the community and other minorities
- Creation/Strengthening of **Legal Cells** to cater the needs of poor and aggrieved persons. This may be started at block/district level to start with, nodal coordinating agencies at the state and region
- Police encounters are a big menace for nation and the community.

Overview-V

- **Developmental issues** are closely connected with **political realities** at grass-root level:
 - **Astute political management** has to be demonstrated by MoMA at the national, regional and district levels
 - Party leadership has to be communicated an unbiased correct picture about needs and redressal mechanism of aggrieved persons / community
 - Serious effort to be made on all levels (party and government) to **check and eliminate the hate campaign against Muslims** and other minorities
 - Proper mechanism may be evolved, and sustained, for opening up **channels of communications** with community leaders ,opinion leaders and administration

Overview-VI

- **Focus on Awqaf:** Protection and maintenance of waqf ; Management of waqf; and Development of waqf; Passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill
- **Micro-finance** for Muslim artisans, traders, businessmen: Expert committee may be appointed to devise and activate possible measures for credit availability
- MoMA to seek **cooperation from Muslim and other minorities groups/ NGOs and other organisations** for planning, implementation and feedback on programmes, schemes
- MoMA to appoint **expert committee** to look into the legal reforms, police reforms, programmes implementation, delimitation of electoral constituencies etc., with a minority perspective
- Create nodal agencies for different areas; Existing agencies may be used in these areas

1. Focus on 'Insecurity and fear psychosis'

- **Confidence building measures** are required with objective of addressing the **social, legal, political and administrative issues** creating environment of mitigating sense of insecurity and fear-psychosis among minorities
- **Social issues:** a) Harassment of Muslim youth in the name of terrorism; helplessness of families in face of police / judicial systems
b) Muslims in West Bengal, Bihar, North-Eastern states being targeted by law-enforcement agencies in the name of infiltration (Bangladeshis)

Action required:

- a) Coordinated support to civil rights groups aiding harassed Muslim youth / families; appoint nodal agency to report to MoMA
- b) Data on Bangladeshi infiltrators to be collated
- c) Public awareness to highlight victims' plight and legal grievances

1. Focus on 'Insecurity and fear psychosis'

- **Legal issues:** a) Repeal / review / scrapping of anti-terrorism laws: Those in force or in Select Committees of Parliament
- b) Anti-Communal Violence Bill
- c) Other bills relating to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or those affecting places of religious importance for Muslims or waqf properties
- d) Ban on SIMI : Muslim youth continue to be jailed as SIMI activists

Action required: a) UAPA Bill needs amendment – address issue of its 'review' process

- a.1) Bring every police encounter under investigation: File FIRs, coordinated challenge to emerging 'police raj'; establishment of **fast-track courts** to club the cases against victims (*which are often filed in different states to 'harass' the victims*)
- b) Flaws of Anti-Communal Violence Bill to be highlighted, addressed
- c) Prevail upon Ministry of Culture to de-notify the Wakf properties under the ASI in all States . Despite proposals received from the State governments / State Wakf boards, Ministry of Culture does not clear the proposals
- d) Challenge extensions of ban on SIMI

1. Focus on 'Insecurity and fear psychosis'

- **Political and Administrative issues:** a) Alarming rise in communal violence across UP, Bihar, Assam, North-Eastern states
b) Delimitation Act: Minority-dominated constituencies being declared as SC/ST reserved
c) Discrimination against Muslims; bias in bureaucracy at every levels (Centre and State)

Action required: a) Review/Repeal/amendments to existing laws,

a.1) Giving victims legal aid through coordinated efforts at district, state and Central-level

a.2) Mobilizing popular support against riots

b) Report on minority-dominated constituencies affected by Delimitation Act

c) All State governments to ensure that the PM's 15-point programme is implemented. State and District level committees chaired by the Chief Secretary (CS) and the Deputy Commissioners or Collectors respectively should be sensitized. Ensure the CS take regular meeting each quarter on the PM's 15-point programme

1. Focus on 'Insecurity and fear psychosis'

- **Political and Administrative issues:** Representation in Local Bodies: Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies
MoMA should prevail upon the Department of Panchayat Raj and the Department of Urban Development to increase the representation of minorities / Muslims in gram panchayats/ taluka panchayats/zila panchayats; and urban local bodies such as town panchayats, city municipality / municipal corporations.
- **Action required:**
This can be done through a process of nomination / co-option to the respective bodies of the members (including women) of religious minorities
- Lessons can be drawn from the 'Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act - 2006', reproduced on page 188 of the Sachar Committee Report

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Education** is major focus area, providing the key to employment, better life and health of minorities. Issues are related to Reservations, Madrasa education, primary and secondary schools, college & University education.
- **Reservations:** 4.5 % sub-quota for minorities out of the 27 % reservations for OBC
- **Action required:**
 - a) Challenge the AP High Court order in SC; special leave petition of Union govt. needs careful handling by MoMA
 - b) Mobilize support from the community leaders for the sub-quota
 - c) One of the 15-point schemes is to improve '**access to education**' such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhayan (SSA). Many states have not spent even one-third of the budgetary allocation during the 11th Five Year plan period. Therefore, the MoMA should prevail upon the Chief Secretaries for a compulsory and exclusive review of the SSA with respect to the minorities/Muslims.

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Madrasa education**: Area Intensive and upgrading of Madrasa education has been revised and bifurcated into two schemes: SPQEM (scheme for providing quality education in madrasah education) and IDMI (financial assistance for infrastructure development).
- **Action required**:
 - a) Review bifurcation; ensure no duplication of schemes
 - b) Capitalize on popularity of madrasa education (versus school education) by upgrading curricula, providing better inputs
 - c) Nation-wide survey of madrasa's with objective of upgradation
 - d) Review Certification process of State Madrasa Boards to ensure madrasa students do not face discrimination/hurdles in their quest for higher education and employment

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Primary education:** KGBV scheme (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) launched in blocks with less than 30% female literacy
490 KGBVs sanctioned in minority concentration districts
- **Action required:**
 - a) Review KGBV scheme; independent survey and audit to be conducted
 - b) Ensure no diversion / mis-utilization of funds
 - c) Financial support to children to reduce drop-outs: Monitor and review support scheme
 - d) Central and State ministries / departments should be identified to ensure that they spend appropriate funds proportionate to the population/target group of Minorities/Muslims at various geographic levels. Such a task can be accomplished by ensuring regular reviews by the Minister / Secretary MoMA.

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Secondary education**: RMSA scheme (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Sansthan) preference to establishing schools in minority concentration districts
- **Action required**:
 - a) Review RMSA scheme; independent survey and audit to be conducted
 - b) Ensure no diversion / mis-utilization of funds
 - c) Muslims living in clusters - need for schools to be available for those clusters in 90 districts
 - d) Review scheme for training of teachers in Urdu medium schools at Central Universities; progress report to be developed
 - e) Work towards simplification of scholarship schemes; recommendation of public representatives (Mukhiya, Councillor), fewer bureaucratic approvals, fewer conditions to apply
 - f) establishment of one secondary schools in minority concentrated districts on the pattern of Kendriya Vidyalay

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Polytechnics**: Financial assistance to States for polytechnics; 57 of the 90 minority concentration districts are eligible under the scheme
- **Action required**:
 - a) Review scheme; independent survey and audit to be conducted
 - b) Ensure no delay/diversion/mis-utilization of funds
 - c) Muslims living in clusters - need for polytechnics to be available near those clusters in 90 districts
 - d) Involvement/association of micro and small-scale industries with polytechnics

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Colleges**: One model college in 374 educationally backward district; 67 identified in minority concentration districts;
- **Action required:** a) Review scheme; independent survey and audit to be conducted
b) Ensure no delay/diversion/mis-utilization of funds
c) Time-bound action should be ensured
- **Girls' Hostels**: UGC provision for girls' hostels in colleges / universities in areas with minority concentration; sanction for 239 hostels in 11th Plan in 90 districts
- **Action required:** a) Review scheme; independent survey and audit to be conducted
b) Ensure no delay/diversion/mis-utilization of funds
c) Time-bound action should be ensured

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Universities**: Five new universities had been announced;
- **Action required**:
 - a) To form a committee to develop project plans for establishing the Universities
 - b) Review progress of project plans
 - c) Work to towards establishing the Universities: focus on quality standards
 - d) Need for faculty identification, upgradation and training programmes
 - e) Counseling and coaching Centres may be introduced at appropriate levels to ensure benefits accrue to Muslims and minority groups

2. Focus on 'Education'

- **Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)**: Enhancing role to support more NGOs; streamlining of its scholarship schemes; and protecting the MAEF objective to 'promote education amongst educationally backward sections of the Society.'
- **Action required:**
 - a) Appointment of Head for the MAEF
 - b) Review its scholarship schemes; learn from best-practices of Delhi govt and its Bhagidaari scheme; more simplification of procedures required
 - c) Review of Fellowship scheme with UGC
 - d) Protect the MAEF objective from being diluted: Not representing all minorities but educationally backward sections of Muslims and other minorities

3. Focus on 'Economy'

- Economy-related issues cover Equal Opportunities Commission; availability of credit facilities for minorities; skill development; Waqf Act and its amendment; development / adoption of Minority Sub-Plan (like the Tribal Sub-Plan)
- **Equal Opportunities Commission:** Report submitted by expert group in 2008 for “the proposed EOC to serve as a path-finding institution that serves as a mechanism to evolve, and evaluate mechanisms, **for affirmative action** following an evidence based approach.”

Action required: a) Appropriate action is urgently needed

b) Constitution of a committee of experts from different fields for review of the findings of EOC and suggest measures for implementation

c) Time-bound action should be ensured

3. Focus on 'Economy'

- **Development / Adoption of Minority Sub-Plan:** Just as the Tribal Sub-Plan strategy was adopted during the Fifth Plan and is being implemented by the Centre as well as the State Governments through various schemes, there is need for a Minority Sub-Plan.
 - The Minority Sub-Plan would bring all the autonomous bodies, statutory bodies under the MoMA;
 - All minority-related schemes at the Centre and States would be planned and implemented through the MoMA
- **Action required:** a) Awareness campaign for the Minority Sub-Plan; building consensus among the various stakeholders
b) Preparation of Approach Papers, representation and appeals to appropriate bodies

3. Focus on 'Economy'

- **'Area Development Program'** is suffering consistently for want of proper implementation, supervision and monitoring. The important programs are Indira Awas Yojana, Anganwadi Centres, schools rooms, basic health facilities, drinking water etc.
- Very little progress is noticed in the Minority/Muslim areas;
In many places the program has reached non-minority/Muslim areas.
- **Action required:** a) To bring focus in to this program the 'taluka/block', instead of district should be the unit of planning and implementation.
b) Further, minority/Muslim dominated villages and mohallas should be identified for implementation.
c) Churches, Temples and Mosque committees can be recognized as the **community-specific civil society institutions** so as to become eligible to facilitate implementation of the Area Development Program.
d) ensure no diversion/mis-utlization of funds

3. Focus on 'Economy'

- **Skill Development / Vocational Training / Entrepreneurship Programme:**
Comprehensive programmes – gender, age and education specific - are required at the block, district and state levels
- Dovetailed with school and college infrastructure development schemes, these can be more focused and effective with the Multi Sectoral District Development Programme, Area Development Programme etc
- **Action required:** a) Assessment and review of existing Multi-Sectoral District Development Programmes preferably by some independent NGOs
b) Developing training faculty for different skill / vocational and entrepreneurship programmes being planned or implemented

(Cont'd)...

3. Focus on 'Economy'

- Skill Development / Vocational Training / Entrepreneurship Programme:

- Action required: (Cont'd)

c) **Artisan Centres** to be developed in existing clusters to provide employment and livelihood for traditional crafts and occupations: Linkages with existing programmes for greater impact

d) **Finance and credit availability:** Regular reviews with Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services; programs such as but not limited to (i) opening of bank branches in Block/District having substantial Minority/Muslim population; (ii) Review the RBI's master circular on Priority Sector Lending to Minority/Muslims; (iii) loan applications at the block/district levels; (iv) Micro finance among women

4. Focus on 'Employment'

- **Employment** : A vast subject where duplication of schemes, implementation bottlenecks abound: Issues concerning **public sector units, private sector enterprises; and** in the field of **Education**.
- Prevail upon both the national and state governments to ensure that **all selection boards and committees** shall compulsorily have a minority / Muslim representative at all levels of employment.
- **New guidelines** from the Department of Personnel & Training are needed to ensure that at the **screening committee level** there should be minority representation; minority candidates are often 'screened out' and therefore never reach the next stage.
- Refer to a Government of India Memorandum reproduced on page 378 of Sachar Committee Report.

4. Focus on 'Employment'

- **Public sector units:** Department of Personnel and Training guidelines since 2007 have given special consideration for recruiting / posting Muslim personnel in PSUs, railways, police and other civil services
- **Action required:**
 - a) Assessment and review of existing data / guidelines
 - b) Public opinion, consensus on Equal Opportunities Commission
 - c) Skill-development programmes, inclusion of entrepreneurs' development programme
 - d) Mobilisation of grass-root organisations and groups at district and state levels, with nodal agency in MoMA

4. Focus on 'Employment'

- **Private sector companies** : Prime Minister's appeal to the private sector to employ minorities / engage vendors from minority groups is an important avenue for employment in both urban and semi-urban milieus
- **Action required:**
 - a) Assessment and review of existing data
 - b) Mobilization of support from industry chambers and associations
 - c) Develop comprehensive campaign to achieve clear objectives

4. Focus on 'Employment'

- **In Education sector** : Huge employment potential in the education sector remains untapped at both Central and State levels
- Need for training programmes at all levels: Familiarization with new technologies, aids; skill and personality development programmes
- Involvement of government, private sector and civil society groups
- **Action required:**
 - a) Assessment and review
 - b) State and Centre level surveys
 - c) Strengthening R&D at all levels
 - d) Introduction of award of scholarships / fellowships in a big way
 - e) Running of coaching and counseling centres with proper monitoring

5. Focus on 'Waqf'

- **Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2010:** Introduction of the new Bill, with the recommendations of the JPC; the Bill, once passed, has potential to streamline and democratise waqf management in India, with the focus on: protection and maintenance of waqf; management of waqf; and development of waqf.
- **Action required:**
 - a) Mobilize support for the passage of the Bill
 - b) Accommodate suggestions made by different Muslim organizations in the Waqf Bill
 - c) Expedite the process of computerisation of waqf properties across the country

6. Focus on 'Research'

- **Continuing Research:** With the PMO discrediting NSSO data, it is imperative for MoMA to institutionalize its continuing research on every aspect of minority affairs
- Adequate budget provisions to be made at all levels
- All India data and evidence to facilitate new reports, policies and programmes
- **Action required:**
 - a) Creation of 'Human Development Index of Minority Communities in India'
 - b) Annual surveys, studies on socio-economic conditions of specific minority communities
 - c) Gender-specific surveys and studies: On social, education, employment, leadership parameters
 - d) Evaluation, assessment of MoMA programmes in the minority-concentration districts and other places
 - e) Independent review and audit of MoMA institutions and statutory bodies: National Minorities Commission, Minorities Finance Corp. etc.

6. Focus on 'Research'

- **Continuing Research:** Computation of Diversity Index
- **Action required:**
 - f) Constitute a committee of experts (economist, statisticians, demographers, sociologist) to estimate the diversity index for
 - (i) educational institutions,
 - (ii) Banks and lending institutions
 - (iii) State Governments,
 - (iv) major departments of Government of India such the Railways, Post and Telegraph, security agencies, urban transportation and leading PSUs.

Concluding thoughts...

- We, at the Institute of Objective Studies, believe that:
 - A task without a vision is drudgery
 - A vision without a task is a dream
 - A vision with a task is but a hope of the world
- While congratulating Mr. K. Rahman Khan on his assumption as the Cabinet Minister of Minority Affairs, we have presented above a vision and tasks together. We hope that the Hon'ble Minister shall try to meet the expectations and aspirations of the nation and minorities
- To achieve the task as elaborated in the presentation, it demands high integrity, honesty, accountability and transparency
- We assure our help and cooperation to MoMA in matters of mutual interest with an assurance on our part to do our best to serve our nation, society and the minorities' interest.

Thank you!