

AIMIM'S ACHIEVEMENTS:

ALL INDIA MAJLIS-E-ITTEHADUL MUSLIMEEN (AIMIM), which was revived in 1958, has been striving, all these years, to bring Muslim community on to a common platform, with the avowed objective of promoting their socio-economic and educational development and securing social, cultural, linguistic, religious, economic and political rights not only for Muslims but also for other underprivileged sections such as Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs and other religious minorities.

Serving the people for almost six decades now, AIMIM has a long record of achievements to its credit. The Party has been waging struggles, conducting campaigns, organizing public meetings and lobbying with the governments to secure for the minorities their rights and to get benefits for them on par with other communities, namely, Dalits, Adivasis and OBCs. AIMIM has been exerting pressure on the successive governments in Andhra Pradesh and at the Centre to mete out justice and equity to the minorities in the State and the country.

Right from Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the first Chief Minister of (united) Andhra Pradesh to the last one, N Kiran Kumar Reddy, AIMIM, as a political party representing the hopes and aspirations of Muslim community and other underprivileged communities, lobbied with all the 16 successive CMs to deliver on their promises to the minorities, particularly Muslims. Many a time, the successive governments listened to AIMIM leadership and conceded most of their demands. At the Centre, successive Prime Ministers from Indira Gandhi to Dr Manmohan Singh respected AIMIM leadership and responded positively to their demands.

CMs & PMs RESPOND TO AIMIM DEMANDS:

AIMIM succeeded in compelling the successive governments to fulfil their constitutional obligations towards the minorities and to initiate measures for the protection of their linguistic, cultural and religious rights and for their educational, economic and social upliftment. AIMIM has also been working for the empowerment of minorities by participating in elections from the local municipal bodies to the Parliament.

Apart from organizing public meetings on current affairs throughout the year, AIMIM has been creating awareness among Muslim masses on issues concerning them and for voicing their demands for socio-economic development and welfare. AIMIM has also been using various elected fora—right from municipal councils to the State Legislature (Assembly & Council) and the Parliament (Lok Sabha) to voice the grievances and demands of Muslim community and other under-privileged sections of the society.

SALAR-E-MILLAT VOICED MINORITY CONCERNS:

Countless speeches made by Salar-e-Millat Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi in the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, spanning an uninterrupted presence of 44 years in the elected bodies reflected the perceptions and feelings of Muslim community in particular and the people of the State in general on various issues confronting them.

Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi and Akbar Uddin Owaisi have continued this illustrious tradition and emerged as the voice of Muslim community and other under-privileged sections through their speeches. They have been highlighting the problems confronting the State and different sections of the people, irrespective of caste, language and community.

After making his mark as a brilliant legislator and AIMIM Floor Leader for 10 years, Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi has shown his mettle as a seasoned parliamentarian in the last one decade. Akbar Uddin Owaisi, as AIMIM floor leader in the State Assembly from 2004 onwards, has proved to be a powerful legislator since 1999. He has been addressing public meetings from his teenage and is known as a fiery orator.

Thanks to the leadership provided by AIMIM to Muslim community and other under-privileged sections, Andhra Pradesh became a pioneer in setting up institutions and launching schemes for the minorities, particularly Muslims. Except for the Wakf Board, which was established in January 1955, all other minority bodies came into being, owing to strong lobbying by AIMIM.

URDU AS SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

In 1966, AP Official Language Act was enacted, inter alia, providing for use of Urdu, in addition to Telugu, as the official language of Andhra Pradesh. This was one of the demands of AIMIM which reasoned that Urdu, which was the official language of erstwhile Hyderabad State under the Nizams till September 1948, should be accorded its rightful place as second official language since Telugu has been chosen as the first official language of Andhra Pradesh. The responsibility of overseeing the implementation of Urdu as the second official language was entrusted to AP Official Language Commission, which has one Urdu-speaking member to monitor this aspect.

URDU ACADEMY:

When AIMIM demanded that effective steps be taken for the promotion and preservation of Urdu language, the State Government established the Urdu Academy of AP in 1975, with three regional centres at Vijayawada, Kurnool and Nizamabad, to preserve and promote Urdu language and literature in the State.

Thus, AP became the first State in the country to constitute the Urdu Academy, which is mandated to take up schemes for promotion and preservation of Urdu language through financial assistance to Urdu libraries, assistance for translation of books of other languages into Urdu, publication of Urdu journal, and awarding of best students and best teachers awards.

For providing vocational training in Urdu computer education, the Urdu Academy opened 85 Urdu computer training centres across Andhra Pradesh for imparting coaching to unemployed Muslim youth. Thousands of Muslim youth and girls have been trained at these centres so far. The State Government also started a scheme for construction of Urdu-Ghar-cum-Shadikhanas (Urdu centres and marriage halls) at various district headquarters and mandal towns.

URDU NOTIFIED IN 15 DISTRICTS:

After AIMIM launched 'Save Urdu Movement' (Urdu Bachao Tahreek) in mid-1980s, the State Government issued notifications for implementation of Urdu as second official language in various districts. Urdu was notified as second official language in as many as 15 districts out of 23 in undivided AP. Also, due to AIMIM's efforts, the Government initiated measures to strengthen Urdu

medium schools at primary, upper primary and secondary levels by recruiting teachers and constructing school buildings. Urdu junior and degree colleges were opened in Hyderabad and other places. Quli Qutub Shah Polytechnic was set up exclusively for youth of Old City of Hyderabad.

SCHOLARSHIP AND FEES REIMBURSEMENT SCHEMES:

Incidentally, Scholarship scheme for minority students was started for the first time in Andhra Pradesh in 1994. Subsequently, in 2006-07, the State Government revamped pre- and post-matric scholarship schemes and introduced fees reimbursement scheme for post-matric courses for minority students on par with Backward Class students. The rates of scholarships for minority students were also enhanced on par with the BCs. Urdu Medium students were also covered under the pre- and post-matric and fees reimbursement schemes on par with minority students studying through English and Telugu media of instruction.

Emulating the scholarship schemes for minority students in Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government also introduced pre- and post-matric scholarship and merit-cum-means scholarship schemes for minorities during 2007-08, with specific targets set for the States based on the proportion of minorities to total population. The Central scholarship rates are higher than those of the State scholarships both at pre-matric and post-matric levels.

The Scholarship schemes of both the State Government and the Central Government have become immensely popular and cover 50 percent of the 16 lakh Muslim students enrolled in 15,000 schools and 8,000 colleges across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. All those minority students whose family income is less than Rs one lakh per annum are eligible for the pre-matric and post-matric scholarship and fees reimbursement schemes of the State Government. However, the eligibility is Rs two lakhs family income ceiling for post-matric scholarships and Rs one lakh for pre-matric scholarships of the Central Government.

HOSTELS AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS:

When AIMIM demanded that minorities should enjoy all facilities on par with other communities, the State Government opened 10 pre-matric hostels and 18 post-matric hostels for minority boys and girls and 12 English-medium residential schools for minorities in minority-dominated districts across the State. The hostellers and students are provided free education and boarding and lodging by the Government.

RECRUITMENT OF URDU TEACHERS:

On the demand of AIMIM, the State Government took up recruitment of Urdu language and subject teachers through the District Selection Committees (DSCs), which were constituted every year for conducting recruitment tests and selecting the teachers for all government schools. Hundreds of Urdu language pundits and subject teachers have been selected through the DSCs so far.

RESERVATIONS FOR BACKWARD MUSLIM GROUPS:

On the eve of 2004 elections, AIMIM demanded that the main parties in the State should announce their commitment for reservations for Muslims in professional courses and public employment. The Congress responded by promising 5 percent quota for Muslims in its election manifesto. Telugu Desam Party followed suit by promising 3 percent quota for Muslims. After the Congress regained power in 2004, the then Chief Minister Dr Y S Rajasekhar Reddy implemented five percent reservations for Muslims by including them in Backward Class list under a separate category-- BC "E" Group.

However, the Sangh Parivar activists filed public interest litigations challenging the quota for Muslims. The State High Court struck down the quota. Subsequently, the State Government reconstituted the Backward Classes Commission which recommended four percent quota for Muslims. The Government promulgated an Ordinance in 2005 to implement the four percent quota. This was also challenged in the State High Court which quashed the quota once again.

After the BC Commission made its recommendations afresh, the State Government implemented four percent quota for 15 identified groups (castes) of socially and educationally backward Muslims and excluded some categories

from the quota in 2007. But the High Court quashed the quota for the third time in 2010. On the insistence of AIMIM, the State filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, which passed interim orders allowing the four percent quota for SEBC Muslims.

Thousands of Muslim boys and girls have benefited from the reservations in professional courses in the last 10 years. Similarly, hundreds of Muslim youth and women got jobs under the four percent BC" E" quota for SEBC Muslims in the last decade. Though the High Court struck down the quota three times, the State Government has shown its determination by implementing the quota for SEBC Muslims again and again despite persistent legal hurdles.

STATE MINORITIES FINANCE CORPORATION:

On the demand of AIMIM, the State Government set up AP State Minorities Finance Corporation in 1985 to assist the weaker sections of minorities for their economic development. AP became the first State to set up an exclusive corporation for the minorities on the lines of cooperative finance corporations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Women. The Corporation implemented schemes for economic assistance, micro-credit and construction of worksheds.

For several years, APSMFC was also entrusted the implementation of other programmes, such as scholarships and fees reimbursement scheme for minority students, development of minority women and children in urban areas, training and employment programmes and maintenance of residential schools and pre- and post-matric hostels for minority students.

APSMFC has been designated as the nodal agency for implementation of scheme of subsidy grant for bank-linked income generating schemes for minorities to set up viable self-employment ventures where the maximum unit cost allowed is upto Rs 2.5 lakh. Thousands of minority youth and women have been assisted by the APSMFC through various schemes in the last 29 years.

PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING FOR MINORITIES:

To ensure financial inclusion of minorities, especially Muslims, through enhanced credit support for economic activities, AIMIM has been impressing upon the Government to instruct the banks to provide more credit flow to the minorities under the Priority Sector Lending. The Reserve Bank of India has set a target of 15 percent of Priority Sector Lending for Minorities.

The Priority Sector Lending for Minorities has increased four-fold from Rs 4,105 crores in 2007-08 to 16,924 crores in 2013-14 in Andhra Pradesh. The enhanced credit works out to 7.05 percent of the total PSL, as against the stipulated target of 15 percent as on 31st March 2014.

MINORITIES WELFARE DEPARTMENT & COMMISSIONERATE:

In 1993, AP also became the first State to set up a separate Minorities Welfare Department at the Secretariat level by taking away the subject from the Social Welfare Department. All the minority-related bodies were brought under the administrative control of this Department. Subsequently, Minorities Welfare Commissionerate was formed at the Directorate level in 1996. A full-fledged Minorities Welfare Commissionerate became operational in 2013, on the demand of AIMIM.

SEPARATE HEAD OF ACCOUNT & LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FOR MINORITIES WELFARE:

AP also got the distinction of introducing a separate Head of Account for Minorities Welfare and earmarking Budgetary provisions for this Head of Account from the late 1990s onwards. AP Legislature became the first in the country to constitute a separate Legislature Committee on Minorities Welfare to review the activities of minority-related departments and schemes on the lines of the Legislature Committees for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

QUANTUM JUMP IN STATE BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR MINORITIES WELFARE:

Starting with an annual allocation of Rs four crores in 1994-95, the budgetary provision for Minorities Welfare reached Rs 1,027 crores in 2013-14 in the

undivided AP. The allocations witnessed this quantum jump (257 times in 20 years) since AIMIM had been representing to the State Government on the eve of preparation of the Budget every year to make higher allocations for Minorities Welfare in keeping with their special requirements. After the bifurcation of the united AP, the residuary AP State has allocated Rs 371 crores for Minorities Welfare in the 2014-15 State Budget and Telangana Government has also promised to raise the allocation to Rs 1,000 crores during 2014-15.

STATE MINORITIES COMMISSION:

AP was the first State to set up the State Minorities Commission in 1979 to ensure that the minorities are not discriminated against. Responding to the demand of AIMIM, the Government accorded statutory status to the Minorities Commission by enacting the AP State Minorities Commission Act in 1998. The Minorities Commission conducted a study on the socio-economic and educational status of minorities in the State in 1989.

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITIES:

The Centre for Educational Development of Minorities (CEDM) was established at Nizam College campus in Hyderabad in 1994 for implementing coaching schemes for minority students and youth. The Centre imparts free coaching to minority candidates in admission-seeking competitive examinations—EAMCET, ECET, EDCET, ECET, LAW CET, PGCET, CEEP, DIET-CET etc—for professional courses.

The CEDM also provides free coaching for job-seeking competitive examinations and recruitment tests such as Civil Services, APPSC Group I, II, III and IV examinations, NET and DSC. The Centre also imparts free coaching for X Class students to improve their performance in SSC public examinations. About 15,000 students are provided coaching through CEDM centres in Hyderabad and other places every year.

STATE HAJ COMMITTEE:

AP became the first State to set up State Haj Committee under the Central Haj Act 2002 for making arrangements for the pilgrims proceeding for Haj. The AP

Government constructed a multi-storied Haj House at a central location in the State capital, Hyderabad, in the late 1990s for providing accommodation to pilgrims from all over the State before they proceed for Haj. About 8,000 pilgrims go for Haj from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana every year. The State Government has decided to construct a new Haj House at a 10-acre site, at an estimated cost of Rs 12.5 crores, near Shamshabad (Hyderabad) International Airport.

SETWIN FOR TRAINING YOUTH:

Society for Employment Promotion and Training in Twin Cities (SETWIN) was set up in Hyderabad in 1978 by the State Government to create employment and self-employment opportunities to unemployed youth in the twin cities of Hyderabad-Secunderabad by providing training in various courses at nominal fees. SETWIN was established in response to AIMIM demand for creating training and self-employment opportunities for minority youth of Hyderabad.

Since 2007, SETWIN, which was providing its training services in Hyderabad, extended its services to the districts to improve self-employment opportunities in rural areas. It runs 33 training centres. SETWIN operates various production units, such as printing presses, cane weaving centres and book binding units. It also operates mini-buses to augment RTC bus services in Hyderabad. The SETWIN bus services were started in 1979.

QQSUDA:

Fulfilling a longstanding demand of AIMIM, the State Government set up Quli Qutub Shah Urban Development Authority in 1981 as a specialized agency for the overall development of the Old City. The announcement was made by then Chief Minister T Anjaiah as a “Bakrid gift” for the people. To make it a high-profile body, the Chief Minister was made the ex-officio chairman and the Municipal Administration Minister as ex-officio vice-chairman of QQSUDA.

The QQSUDA’s jurisdiction extends over 64.5 sq kms spread over 11 assembly constituencies—namely, Charminar, Bahadurpura, Yakutpura, Chandrayangutta, Malakpet, Goshamahal, Karwan, Nampally, Jubilee Hills and parts of Maheshwaram and L B Nagar. The QQSUDA area has a population of 25 lakhs.

The QQSUDA's mission is to plan and promote the development of Old City through creation of infrastructure such as sewerage, storm water drains, borewells, internal roads, CC roads, community halls, compound walls for graveyards, recreational and market facilities, hospital and school buildings, housing and other works. The State Government has provided non-plan and plan assistance of Rs 300 crores to QQSUDA over the last 33 years. QQSUDA was allocated Rs 19 crores during 2013-14 financial year.

STATE WAKF BOARD:

AP State Wakf Board, one of the biggest wakf boards with over 37,740 registered wakf institutions and 1.45 lakh acres of lands, has been facing the problem of massive encroachments by all and sundry, including the State Government and its various wings and agencies. Over the decades, almost 50 percent of wakf lands and properties have come under encroachments.

AIMIM has mounted a campaign for eviction of all encroachers from the wakf lands. Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi and Akbar Uddin Owaisi have been demanding the Government not only to remove the encroachments on wakf lands from land grabbers but also to return to the Wakf Board the wakf lands that the government agencies and departments have occupied.

AIMIM has contested the Government claims of ownership over the lands belonging to famous dargahs such as those of Hazrat Baba Sharfuddin at Pahadi Shareef, Maqdoom Biyabani at Alur, Hussain Shah Wali at Manikonda and Syed Ali Ishaq Madani Aulia at Visakhapatnam. The lands of these dargahs and other wakfs in Rangareddy and other districts had been taken over by the Government and allotted to AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation, Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority and other departments which, in turn, leased or sold these out to IT and pharma companies, other institutions and Special Economic Zones, literally for a song.

Noting that the approximate value of these wakf properties would exceed Rs 35,000 crores to Rs 45,000 crores, AIMIM opposed the contentious action of the AP Government in snatching away the lands of these dargahs and other wakfs. AIMIM has been exerting pressure on the State Government to reconsider its

stand and restore the lands of these dargahs and other such wakfs to the Wakf Board.

The campaign by AIMIM is yielding results. Due to sustained efforts of Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi and Akbar Uddin Owaisi, AP Government became the first in the country to return 85 acres of prime lands to the State Wakf Board in lieu of the lands of Baba Sharfuddin Dargah (on the outskirts of Hyderabad) that were grabbed by the Government in the early 1950s.

REPAIRS TO MASJIDS, DARGAHS AND ASHOORKHANAS:

Besides its core task of identification, registration, protection and development of wakf properties, the State Wakf Board undertakes repairs to masjids, dargahs and ashoorkhanas and construction of compound walls in Muslim graveyards. Over the last five decades, the Board has carried out repairs to scores of masjids, dargahs and ashoorkhanas by spending crores of rupees.

SPECIAL FUNDS FOR RAMZAN, BAKRID AND MUHARRAM:

On the demand of AIMIM, the State Government sanctions special funds for taking up works in Hyderabad and other districts in connection with the Ramzan and Bakrid festivals as well as observance of Muharram. While the civic bodies take up civic works, the Wakf Board undertakes works relating to masjids and Idgahs and ashoorkhanas.

STATE WAKF TRIBUNAL:

For expeditious disposal of disputes and cases relating to wakf properties, the State Government set up the AP State Wakf Tribunal for the first time in the country in 1997. The tribunal, located in Hyderabad, exercises jurisdiction over the whole State for determination of any dispute, question or other matter relating to wakf property. The tribunal delivered a landmark judgement in the dispute between the State Government and the Wakf Board over Manikonda jagir (wakf) lands belonging to Dargah Hussain Shah Wali on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

SECOND WAKF SURVEY:

The first Wakf Survey was launched in 1962 and took 14 years for completion. The Second Wakf Survey, which commenced in 2001, is still in progress and is likely to be completed by December 2015. Major field work has been completed in all the districts and the Second Survey tentatively revealed that there were 70,874 wakf institutions with 1,67,226 acres of lands in undivided Andhra Pradesh State. The Second Survey has established the ownership of several prime properties of Dargahs, Ashoorkhanas and Masjids which were wrongfully claimed to be revenue lands by the State Government.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MARRIAGE OF POOR MUSLIM GIRLS:

Incidentally, AP became the first State in the country to implement a scheme for conduct of mass marriages of poor Muslim girls from 2008-09 onwards. Till date, marriages of hundreds of poor Muslim girls were conducted with assistance of the Government. On the representation of AIMIM, the Telangana Government recently revamped the scheme and named it as “Shaadi Mubarak scheme. ” Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs 51,000 is granted for the marriage of unmarried Muslim girls whose parental income is less than Rs two lakh per annum.

MINORITIES GET SHARE IN 37 STATE SCHEMES:

Similarly, the State AP Government has been implementing as many as 37 schemes for the under-privileged sections of society, including the minorities. These schemes include Indiramma Pensions to Old Age Persons, Widows and Disabled Persons, MGNREGS, Vaddileni Runalu (Zero Interest) Loan Scheme for Women Self-Help Groups, Dr YSR Abhaya Hastam (Artisan Old Age Pension) Scheme, Deepam (Subsidised Gas Connection) Scheme, Rs One-a-Kg Rice Scheme, Mid-Day Meals Scheme, Arogyasri Health Insurance Scheme for the Poor, Indiramma Rural and Urban Housing Scheme, Rajiv Awas Yojana (Housing Scheme), Jawahar Knowledge Centres (for imparting soft skills to graduates) and Scheme for Assignment of Lands to the Landless Poor. A substantial number of poor minority persons/ households have benefited from these schemes so far.

SUB-MISSION FOR MINORITY YOUTH:

In 2011, the State Government launched Rajiv Yuva Kiranaalu (Rajiv Education and Employment Mission) to ensure that every educated young boy and girl is provided an opportunity to settle down in life. Though the State cannot offer government jobs to all of them, it can certainly play the role of a facilitator in linking entrepreneurs and job-seekers. On the demand of AIMIM, an exclusive Sub-Mission was launched for the Minorities for coverage of unemployed Muslim youth in a big way to provide them employment opportunities.

RECRUITMENT OF MINORITY YOUTH:

In 2011, the State Government also took up recruitment of nearly two lakh youth for public employment. The Government issued notifications for large-scale recruitment of police personnel, school teachers, medical and para-medical staff, and other employees in various departments as well as state public undertakings such as Transco, Discoms and RTC. The AP Public Service Commission issued notifications for Group II and other departmental vacancies all over the State.

On the demand of AIMIM on the floor of the Assembly, the then Chief Minister assured that in the recruitment tests conducted for filling up all these vacancies, applicants would be allowed to take the tests in Urdu medium also, since Urdu is the mother tongue of a large section of State's population and also because it is the State's second official language and notified as such in 15 minority-concentrated districts.

NAC CAMPUS IN OLD CITY OF HYDERABAD:

Responding to a demand from AIMIM, the State Government started a campus of the National Academy of Construction in the Old City of Hyderabad in 2011. The NAC Centre offers courses for electricians, plumbers, civil supervisors, computer operators, curtain stitchers and other trades for youth, particularly from minority community. In the last three years, NAC Centre has trained 1,580 youth, out of whom 1,180 secured placements with monthly incomes of more than Rs 15,000.

DAIRATUL MA'ARIF-IL-OSMANIA:

Dairatul Ma'arif-il-Osmania was established in 1888 in the reign of the Sixth Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Mahbub Ali Khan. Later, the Seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, extended his patronage and in the course of time, the institution acquired global fame and recognition in the field of research and editing. The institution was tasked to procure, transcribe, collate, edit and publish rare Arabic and Persian manuscripts of prominent scholars belonging to the classical era of Islam for the use of contemporary scholars across the world.

The publications of Dairatul Ma'arif-il-Osmania cover a wide range of subjects that include interpretation of the Holy Quran, Tradition (Sunnat), Principles of Tradition, History, Philosophy, Philology, Sufism, Metaphysics, Mathematics, Astronomy, Medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Dialectics, Dogma, Islamic Jurisprudence and Ecology. The Institution has so far published more than 240 scholarly research works.

After the establishment of Minorities Welfare Department, Dairatul Ma'arif-il-Osmania was brought under the administrative control of this Department and the State Government assumed the responsibility for providing assistance for running this Institution. On the representation of AIMIM, the Government has sanctioned additional assistance for Dairatul Ma'arif-il-Osmania for meeting its establishment expenses and staff salaries so that this prestigious institution can continue its task of acquiring and preserving rare oriental classic manuscripts in Arabic and Persian.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AT THE CENTRE

The Ministry of Minority Affairs at the Centre was constituted in January 2006 after AIMIM MP Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi, alongwith Muslim MPs of other parties, represented to the then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to form a separate Ministry for Minority Welfare by bringing all the different bodies and schemes meant for minorities under this ministry to enhance their efficiency.

PM'S NEW 15-POINT PROGRAMME FOR WELFARE OF MINORITIES:

Also, on the representation of AIMIM, Prime Minister's New 15-point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June 2006, for enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities

and employment, enhanced credit support for self-employment, recruitment to State and Central Government jobs, improving the conditions of living of minorities and prevention and control of communal disharmony and violence.

The underprivileged sections among the minorities are included in the target groups of various government schemes identified by the 15-Point Programme, which stipulates that 15 percent of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities.

MINORITIES GET BENEFITS UNDER 20 CENTRAL SCHEMES:

These 20 schemes include Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme, Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarogzar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanthi Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), New ITIs and Upgradation of Existing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Housing and Slum Development (IHSD) Scheme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) Scheme, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSMT) and National Rural Drinking Water Mission (NRDWM).

Besides, exclusive schemes for minorities are included in the PM's 15-Point Programme, namely Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship schemes, Modernisation of Madarsa Education and Greater Resources for Teaching Urdu and Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities.

QUANTUM JUMP IN CENTRAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR MINORITY WELFARE:

In the last 10 years since 2004 general elections, Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi highlighted the issues, concerns and problems of Muslim community in the Parliament and persuaded the Central Government to launch new schemes and initiatives for the minorities. Thanks to AIMIM's constant efforts, the Central Government enhanced the budgetary allocations for welfare of minorities from Rs 17 crores in 2003-04 (last year of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government) to Rs

3,511 crores in 2013-14 financial year. This growth in the allocations represented a quantum jump (206 times) within a period of 10 years. Incidentally, the NDA Government has raised the allocation for Ministry of Minority Affairs to Rs 3,734 crores for 2014-15 financial year.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing 23 schemes through the Central agencies and State governments. The Ministry exercises administrative control over seven institutions, namely, Central Waqf Council (established 1964), National Commission for Minorities (1978), Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (1957), Maulana Azad Education Foundation (1989), National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (1994), National Waqf Development Corporation (2013) and Dargah Khwaja Saheb, Ajmer.

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY:

Osmania University was established at Hyderabad in 1918 by a Firman of the Seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, with Urdu as the Medium of Instruction. Incidentally, Osmania University was the first University in the country to offer instruction in an Indian language. However, after the integration of erstwhile Nizam's State into Indian Union, the Medium of Instruction in Osmania University was changed from Urdu to English, thereby bringing a glorious era of the University to an end.

In this backdrop, a demand for a separate Urdu University at the national level has been voiced by AIMIM on the ground that Urdu, being one of the scheduled languages of the country and spoken by crores of people, deserved to have a university of its own. Consequently, Maulana Azad National Urdu University was set up as a Central University in 1998 by an Act of Parliament to promote and develop Urdu language and to impart vocational and technical education in Urdu medium through conventional and distance modes.

The University has built its campus at a sprawling 200-acre site at Gachi Bowli near Hyderabad. Apart from six Schools of Studies at its campus, comprising 13 teaching departments, the University has set up an Industrial Training Institute, a Polytechnic and a Model School at Hyderabad for offering instruction through Urdu medium.

4.5 PERCENT SUB-QUOTA FOR MINORITIES:

AIMIM has been vociferously demanding the Central Government to implement Ranganath Misra Commission recommendations for providing 10 percent reservations for Muslims and five percent quota for other minorities in government jobs and Scheduled Caste status for Dalits in all communities. However, after dilly-dallying on the issue for several years, the Central Government announced 4.5 percent sub-quota for Minorities from within the 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in government jobs and central educational institutions in December 2011.

A batch of writ petitions were filed in the Andhra Pradesh High Court by a Backward Class leader and several others, challenging the 4.5 percent sub-quota earmarked for Minorities. A Division Bench of the High Court set aside the carving out of a sub-quota of 4.5 percent in favour of Backward Classes belonging to Minorities on the ground there was no proof cited to substantiate the socio-educational backwardness of the Minorities provided with reservation in employment and education. The Central Government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, which refused to stay the High Court judgement.

STRING OF SUCCESSES:

AIMIM has a string of successes to its credit since it has been able to effectively plead its case with the successive governments at the Centre and in the State to concede the legitimate demands of the minorities. No wonder, the State and the Central Government set up institutions for the minorities, launched schemes and initiatives for the educational, social and economic development of the minorities and provided budgetary allocations for the welfare of the minorities.