

SHRI ARJUN SINGH, HON. MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

DEVELOPMENT: Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Home Minister, hon. Minister for Minority Affairs, hon. Chairman of the Minority Commission, distinguished Members of the State Minority Commissions: I have not come here to make a speech as such, because I feel candidly that a lot of speech making has gone ahead and the speech of the hon. Chairman of the Minority Commission is a clear indication that now the minorities of this country would like to see in the pudding, that we are preparing for them and placing before them, the proof when they eat it. This generation of Indians is mandated to ensure what the founding fathers of our Republic visualized -- a country in which every citizen, whatever may be his caste, creed and religion, enjoys the fruits of freedom in equal measure. But the fact is that it has not come to pass in spite of efforts of everyone.

I am very enthused by the fact that the hon. Prime Minister has, from the very beginning, set out certain goals so far as the minorities are concerned. His dedication to those goals, I am sure, could bring about those realities which our founding fathers so fondly looked forward to. I would like to remind you that within a month of his taking office he addressed a Minority Conference on Education because education is not only the greatest leveler, but it is also the only way to empower people and the directions that he gave in that Conference are the guiding principle for the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I do not know how much we have succeeded. But we have tried to follow that guidance in letter and spirit. I can assure all of you that the guidance of the hon. Prime Minister has been constantly with us and from time to time many of the factors which could have created problems in the sphere of education for the minorities have been resolved through his intervention.

I would not like to take your time because we all want to listen to the hon. Prime Minister. I would only say one thing and that is, now is the time when each one of us should look into our hearts and then act in a manner which would befit a citizen of our country.