

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 313
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2015**

Review of scheme for welfare of minorities

313. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is reviewing its existing schemes for welfare of minorities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government has started a scheme named 'Ustaad' to promote traditional arts and handicrafts among the minority communities, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

- a) The review of the existing schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs is a constant process based on the ground realities and the feedback. Accordingly, schemes are modified with a view to improve their delivery.
- b) Yes Sir, a new scheme "USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)" has been approved during 2014-15 to preserve the rich heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities. As the name of the scheme suggests Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) i.e. upgradation of Traditional Arts/Crafts is the purpose of the scheme where a vast section of population, particularly of Minority Community is engaged. The scheme aims at capacity building and updating the traditional arts/crafts of minorities; set standards for traditional skills; training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts through master craftsmen; and develop national and international market linkages.

The scheme also targets the training of minority youths who are between 14-35 years of age and minimum Class-V qualified through master craftsmen by involving Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and Knowledge Partners.
