

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1667
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2023

**REDUCED BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS FOR EDUCATION AND SKILL
DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITIES**

1667. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a. whether it is a fact that Government has drastically cut budgetary allocations for schemes related to education, skill development and livelihood of minorities;
- b. if so, the details thereof;
- c. details of the number of beneficiaries of such schemes in the last 5 years, year-wise; and
- d. what are the reasons for such drastic cuts in the budgetary allocations for schemes relating to education, skill development and livelihood?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, specially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements various schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities. These schemes give representation to all weaker segments of society including minorities. The Schemes/ programmes implemented by the Ministry during the last five years are as under:

A. Educational Empowerment schemes

- (1) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (2) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (3) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme

B. Employment and Economic Empowerment Schemes

- (4) Pradhan Mantri Virasat ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)
- (5) Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for providing concessional loans to Minorities

C. Special Schemes

- (6) Jiyo Parsi: A Scheme for reversing the population decline of Parsis in India
- (7) Quami Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS) and Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (SWSVY)
- (8) Research/Studies, Dissemination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes including Publicity

D. Infrastructure Development Schemes

- (9) Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

The budget of the schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs was reduced due to the following reasons:

(i) Adoption of new mechanism for release of Central share of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes, for which State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNA) were required to be appointed. As per the revised procedure of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, for release of funds to the State Governments, the releases of funds under PMJVK are not tied to the projects and the amount available in the account of State Nodal Agency (SNA) forms a common pool. As on 01.03.2023, the unspent amount with the States in their SNA account is Rs. 2466.48 crore, and the States can incur expenditure from the SNA account to complete the ongoing projects. Due to this, funds could not be released to States.

(ii) Scholarship schemes of the Ministry were to be aligned with the pattern followed by the Education Ministry and other ministries such as Tribal Affairs and Social Justice. Central Government has taken the decision to limit the coverage under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Minorities to only Classes IX and X based on very strong rationale. Firstly, it has been observed that the participation of students from Minority communities is at par with the national average at primary and elementary level. Also, the students at these levels are already covered under Right to Education (RTE) Act. Further, there was a felt need to harmonize the coverage under Pre-Matric Scheme for minorities with similar schemes implemented for other target groups like Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs.

(iii) Skilling schemes under Ministry of Minority Affairs have been amalgamated under the PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).

Year wise details of number of beneficiaries of schemes related to education, skill development and livelihood of minorities during the last 5 years are available on the website of this Ministry (www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).
