

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2329
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

New Schemes for Empowerment of Students from Minority Community

2329. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has introduced any new scheme for the development and empowerment of students from minority community in the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for not introducing any new schemes;
- (d) whether Central Government has scrapped any schemes relating to students from minority communities in the last two years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c) The Government already 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 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. The schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry 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 (PMVIKAS)

(5) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) Scheme for providing concessional loans to minorities.

(C) Special Schemes

(6) Jiyo Parsi: A scheme for reversing the declining trend of Parsi population.

(7) Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS) and Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (SWSVY).

(D) Infrastructure Development Schemes

(8) Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

(d) & (e) To align the schemes with the New Education Policy, 2020, in interest of uniformity across similar schemes of other Ministries/Departments and to avoid duplication/overlapping of schemes in education sector and also the fact that the RTE Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (i.e. Classes I to VIII), the Government decided to discontinue the following Schemes from financial year (FY) 2022-23:

- i. Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF)
- ii. Padho Pardesh
- iii. Naya Savera
- iv. Nai Udaan; and
- v. Coverage of classes I to VIII under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme.
