

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1243**  
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE NMDFC**

1243. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of beneficiaries from minority communities benefitted under the National Minority Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC);
- (b) the steps taken by Government towards economic empowerment of citizens of minority community; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for financial inclusion of Muslim women in the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a), (b) & (c): 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. Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements various schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority. The schemes / programmes for economic empowerment of minority citizens are as under;

- (i) Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme is a flagship of the Ministry of Minority Affairs which converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry namely 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'Nai Manzil', 'USTTAD', 'Nai Roshni', and Hamari Dharohar for the six notified minority communities. PM VIKAS scheme comprises of the following components:

- a. Skilling and Training component
- b. Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship component
- c. Education support component (for school dropouts)

Further, the scheme targets to promote credit and market linkages for the beneficiaries

- (ii) National Minorities Development And Finance Corporation (NMDFC):

The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), implements various schemes, namely Term Loan, Micro Finance, Education Loan, and Virasat Scheme, to empower beneficiaries from minority communities by providing concessional loans for self-employment and income generation ventures, with a particular preference given to women and occupational groups. The implementation of these schemes is carried out through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations, as well as through Punjab Gramin Bank and Canara Bank. The detailed information regarding the NMDFC schemes is enclosed as 'Annexure-A'.

Since its incorporation in 1994-95, NMDFC has extended concessional credit amounting to Rs. 9485.04 crores up to 28.02.2025, benefiting 25.49 lakh beneficiaries from minority communities. It is noteworthy that approximately 89.68% women beneficiaries including Muslim women have been financed under the NMDFC schemes, making a substantial positive impact on their livelihoods.

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**Eligibility Condition**

1. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis & Jains notified as National Minorities by the Central Government under the National Minorities Commission Act, 1992 are eligible to avail benefit under NMDFC schemes.
2. The annual family income eligibility criterion under Credit Line-1 is upto Rs. 3.00 lacs p.a. for both rural & urban areas. Under Credit Line -2, persons with higher annual family income of upto Rs.8.00 lacs p.a. can avail higher quantum of financial assistance at a higher rate of interest.

**Concessional Credit Schemes of NMDFC**

**1. Term Loan**:- Assistance under this scheme is available for any commercially viable & technically feasible venture. Maximum Loan of up to Rs.20.00 Lacs per beneficiary is available under Credit Line-1 at an interest rate of 6% p.a.

Higher loan of maximum up to Rs.30.00 Lacs per beneficiary is available under Credit Line-2 at an interest rate of 8% p.a. for male beneficiaries & 6% p.a for female beneficiaries.

**Education Loan**:- Education loan scheme is part of term loan scheme. Education Loan is provided for pursuing technical and professional courses with maximum course duration of 5 years. The Educational Loan of upto Rs.20.00 lacs for courses in India & Rs.30.00 lacs for courses abroad is available at an interest rate of 3% p.a. under Credit Line-1 while interest @ of 8% p.a. is charged from male beneficiaries & 5% p.a from female beneficiaries under Credit Line-2.

**Virasat Scheme**:- This scheme is also part of the Term Loan scheme and is implemented with the objective to meet credit requirements of the Artisans, both in terms of Working Capital and Fixed Capital for purchase of equipment/tools/machineries. Maximum loan of upto Rs.10.00 Lacs can be availed under the scheme at simple interest of 5% p.a. for Male Artisan & at 4% p.a. for Female Artisan under Credit Line-1 and at simple interest of 6% p.a. for Male Artisan & at 5% p.a. for Female Artisan under Credit Line-2.

**2. Micro Finance**:- Under Micro-finance scheme, micro-credit is extended to the members of Self Help Groups (SHGs), especially the women from Minority communities scattered in remote villages & urban slums, who are not able to take advantage of the formal banking credit. The scheme requires that the beneficiaries are organized into SHGs and get into habit of thrift & credit, however small. Maximum loan upto Rs.1.00 lac per SHG member is available under Credit Line -1 at an interest rate of 7% p.a.

Higher loan of maximum upto Rs.1.50 lacs per SHG member is available under Credit Line-2 at an interest rate of 10% p.a. for male beneficiaries & 8% p.a for female beneficiaries.