

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1876**  
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT FOR MINORITIES IN ODISHA**

1876. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the skill development programs initiated for minority communities in the State of Odisha;
- (b) the number of individuals trained and employed under these programs during the last three years;
- (c) the steps being taken to promote entrepreneurship among minority communities in the State; and
- (d) the funds allocated for these initiatives?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (d): The Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) is a flagship Scheme of the Ministry which converges its five erstwhile schemes viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni, and Nai Manzil. The Scheme focuses on upliftment of six notified minority communities through skill development; entrepreneurship and leadership of minority women; and education support for school dropouts. An amount of Rs. 230 crore allocated under the scheme at RE stage for FY 2024-25.

A brief of the converging schemes along-with achievements made therein in the State of Odisha till date is as under:

**i) Seekho aur Kamao (SAK)** scheme, started in 2014-15, targeted to upgrade the skills of minority youth (14-45 years) in various modern/ traditional skills depending upon their qualification, prevailing economic trends, and market potential, that could earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to take up self-employment. Under the scheme, 2,734 beneficiaries were trained and 1796 were placed in the state of Odisha in last five years.

**ii) Nai Manzil** scheme started in 2015, and was implemented with an objective to benefit the minority youth who do not have formal school leaving certificate. The scheme provided a combination of formal education (Class VIII or X) and skills and enabled the beneficiaries to seek better employment and livelihoods. Under the scheme, 1,240 beneficiaries were trained and 922 were placed in the state of Odisha in last five years.

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