

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2508
ANSWERED ON 11/08/2025

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR MINORITIES IN GUJARAT

2508. DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to improve enrollment and retention of tribal and minority children in districts like Panchmahal;
- (b) the schemes to provide vocational training, digital literacy, and skill development for minority women and youths in rural, migration-affected areas;
- (c) whether the impact of seasonal migration on mid-day meal delivery and learning of minority children has been assessed and corrective steps taken; and
- (d) whether Government is collaborating to establish community learning centers in remote, minority-dominated areas of the State of Gujarat?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The Government of India have been implementing various schemes for socio-economic and educational empowerment of tribal and minority communities. The educational empowerment schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs are dedicated to the welfare of six religious minority communities and such schemes are being implemented throughout the country including the district of Panchmahal of Gujarat.

The Government of India is implementing the following scholarship schemes to promote and encourage basic and higher education among the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population:-

- i) Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class IX and X)
- ii) Post Matric Scholarship for ST students (Class XI and above)
- iii) National Fellowship for Higher Education for ST students.
- iv) National Scholarship for Higher Education for ST students (Top Class)
- v) National Overseas Scholarship for ST students.

These schemes assist tribal students in their education and help to improve enrollment and retention of tribal students. These schemes are implemented in all State Governments and Union Territory administrations, including districts like Panchmahal.

The Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN) scheme, popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme, is also implemented with an effort to reduce the dropout rates.

(b): Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) on a pan-India basis as a Central Sector Scheme which converges five erstwhile schemes viz. 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'Nai Manzil', 'Nai Roshni', 'USTTAD' and 'Hamari Dharohar' schemes. The Scheme focuses on socio-economic upliftment of six notified minority communities through Skilling and Training (traditional and non-traditional), Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship, Education (through National Institute of Open Schooling) and Infrastructure Development through Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram. The Scheme also provisions to facilitate credit linkages by connecting beneficiaries with loan programs offered by the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

(c) and (d): As of now, no such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.
