

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2509
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

NAI ROSHNI SCHEME

2509. SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:
SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) main objectives of the Nai Roshni Scheme;
- (b) the target beneficiaries under the scheme;
- (c) whether the scheme is being implemented at the ground level; and
- (d) the major achievements that have been recorded under the scheme so far?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (d): Nai Roshni scheme was launched in 2012-13 and was aimed to empower and enhance confidence among minority women by generating awareness about women rights and interventions for 'Leadership Development'. The training modules covered areas related to Programmes for women such as Health and Hygiene, Legal Rights of Women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behavioural changes. Nai Roshni scheme was implemented through Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) across different states/ UTs, by providing 6 days training and thereafter, hand-holding to all beneficiaries for a period of up to 12 months. Under Nai Roshni scheme, since inception, about 4.35 lakh minority women were trained from all over India.

The Nai Roshni scheme has been subsumed under an integrated scheme Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) which converges five erstwhile skilling and empowerment schemes of the Ministry and, inter alia, lays emphasis on community-level aspirations and challenges, and improving the socio-economic conditions through exposure to relevant skills. The Leadership and Entrepreneurship sub-component of the PM VIKAS scheme focuses on empowering minority women through a three tiered training programs on "Leadership and Basic Entrepreneurship Development" and "Entrepreneurship Development", of 60 and 120 hours, respectively. Further, advance 240-hour training is provided to selected participants to become *Biz Sakhis* or *Udyami Mitras*, who act as business mentors to support other women entrepreneurs locally.

Additionally, career counselling is offered to all interested participants, aiming to guide them toward suitable education, skill training, or employment. Enterprise setup support, including credit and market linkages, is also extended to trained women to help them establish sustainable enterprises aligned with the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' vision.
