

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2826
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

WELFARE AND EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES

2826. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to improve the socio-economic status of minority communities, particularly in terms of employment, education and healthcare;
- (b) whether there are any specific programs focused on women and youth from minority backgrounds to enhance their skill development and employment opportunities; and
- (c) manner in which Government supports initiatives to promote cultural exchange and understanding between various communities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society. Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements following schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities viz. Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh. These schemes are as under:

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

The Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented the following three Scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment of the six centrally notified minority communities:

- i) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme;
- ii) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme; and
- iii) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme.

The details of these schemes are available in public domain on the website of the Ministry i.e. **minorityaffairs.gov.in**.”

PMJVK

“Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram” (PMJVK), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is one of the flagship program of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for creation of community infrastructure in the Minority Concentration Areas of the country in the sectors viz. Health, Skill Development, Women Centric Projects, Education, Drinking Water and Supply, Sanitation and Sports. The aim of the scheme also includes to boost the social and economic conditions of the Minority Communities of that particular area.

PM VIKAS

The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) 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 the following:

- i. Skilling and Training (Non-traditional and traditional)
- ii. Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- iii. Education (through National Institute of Open Schooling)
- iv. Infrastructure Development (through Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram)

The scheme also facilitates credit linkages by connecting beneficiaries with loan programs offered by the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

NATIONAL MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION (NMDFC)

NMDFC implements various schemes for socio-economic empowerment including educational empowerment of "backward sections" including women and youth among the notified minority communities by providing concessional loan for income generation ventures & education loan for technical & professional courses, across the country. The schemes of NMDFC are implemented through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by respective State Govt./ UT Administration, Punjab Gramin Bank and Canara Bank.

(c): The Ministry of Minority Affairs organises 'Lok Samvardhan Parv', bringing together minority artisans from across India. The platform offers artisans a unique opportunity to showcase their indigenous arts, crafts, and rich cultural heritage. The event has been designed not only to promote the traditions of minority communities but also to foster an innovative and entrepreneurial environment for artisans. To enhance their skills in areas like marketing, export & online business, design, taxation and sales etc., workshops are conducted by the Ministry, with support from the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), ensuring a holistic approach to empowering their talent. So far, the Ministry has organised 04 Lok Samvardhan Parvs, as under:

- i. July, 2024 at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi;
- ii. January, 2025 at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi;
- iii. April, 2025 at Convocation Ground, Kashmir University, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir;
- iv. June, 2025 at Gandhi Darshan, Raj Ghat, New Delhi.

To promote social harmony and understanding among the different minority religious communities, the National Commission for Minorities, a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, regularly holds interfaith meetings (Sarv Dharm Samvad) with the representatives of minority communities and celebrations of festivals of all religions.
