

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2673
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2026

DRASTIC REDUCTION IN MINORITY FUNDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2673. SMT. RAJATHI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the rationale behind the 0.064 per cent decrease in the Ministry's share of the total Union Budget for 2026-27 compared to 0.066 per cent in 2025-26;
- (b) the reason for a drastic reduction of 99 per cent in minority higher education scholarships, dropping from ₹7.34 crore in 2025-26 to just ₹0.06 crore for 2026-27;
- (c) the scheme-wise details of funds allocated, released and actually utilised during the last three FYs (2024-25 to 2026-27); and
- (d) the details of beneficiaries under the Post-Matric Scholarship during the last five years, the State-wise and community-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The Budget Estimate for FY 2025-26 is Rs. 3350.00 crores and Budget Estimate for FY 2026-27 is Rs. 3400.00 crores, there is an increase of approximately 1.5% in the Ministry's budget allocation in FY 2026-27 with respect to FY 2025-26. Efforts are being made to utilize the allocated Budget effectively.

(b): The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the following three Scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment of the six centrally notified minority communities viz. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh:

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

The Schemes intend to provide financial assistance to the poor and meritorious students belonging to religious minority communities to enable them to pursue professional and technical courses. The Scholarship schemes, however, have not been approved for implementation beyond 2021-22.

Apart from scholarship schemes, this Ministry implemented Padho Pardesh scheme to award interest subsidy on educational loan to minority students for studying abroad to pursue approved courses of study at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. levels. The scheme has been discontinued from FY 2022-23 as education loan is available at cheaper rates through various other Government interventions.

The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme intended to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to the minority communities to pursue degrees in higher education such as M.Phil. and Ph.D. in India. The scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23 due to its apparent overlapping with similar schemes of other Ministries. However, the fellowship to existing beneficiaries are being released.

(c): The statement showing Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and actual expenditure during the last three years i.e. from FY 2024-25 to 2026-27 is at **Annexure-I**.

(d): The details of beneficiaries under the Post-Matric Scholarship during the last five years, State-wise and community-wise are at **Annexures II-III**.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2673 FOR ANSWER ON 16.03.2026 REGARDING 'DRASTIC REDUCTION IN MINORITY FUNDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS' ASKED BY SMT. RAJATHI

(Rupees in crore)

S.No	Scheme	2024-25			2025-26			2026-27
		BE	RE	Actual Expr	BE	RE	Actual Expr (upto 10.03.2026)	BE
1.	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(Earlier MsDP)	910.90	908.90	955.23	1913.97	1565.00	1133.81	2000.00
2.	PM VIKAS	255.43	30.00	0.00	267.29	200.00	98.72	303.27
3.	PM VIKAS Committed Liabilities	244.57	200.00	203.35	250.00	112.01	35.58	0.00
4.	Research /studies, Dissemination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development schemes including publicity	20.00	12.20	23.62	20.00	16.00	14.51	20.00
5.	Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community(Jiyo Parsi)	6.00	5.53	5.04	6.00	4.87	4.38	6.00
6.	Grants in aid to state Channelizing Agencies (SCA) engaged for implementation in NMDFC programme.	3.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	5.00
7.	Qaumi Waqf Boards Taraqqiati Scheme.	10.00	3.06	1.56	10.00	12.00	10.62	30.00
8.	Shahari Waqf Sampati Vikas Yojana(Earlier GIA to Waqf)	6.00	0.01	0.00	3.00	1.53	0.00	2.00
9.	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for minorities	10.00	3.50	2.36	10.00	1.00	0.00	10.00
10.	Pre-matric Scholarship	326.16	90.00	1.55	195.70	0.06	0.00	198.00
11.	Post-matric Scholarship	1145.38	343.91	5.31	413.99	0.06	0.00	581.00
12.	Merit-cum-Means Scholarship	33.80	19.41	3.51	7.34	0.06	0.00	0.06
13.	Interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities(PadhoPardesh)	15.30	15.30	0.00	8.16	0.01	0.00	6.50
14.	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	45.08	45.08	25.00	42.84	53.84	50.27	36.14

15.	Education scheme for Madarsas and Minorities*	2.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Consulate General of India Jeddah	90.00	124.64	107.47	138.00	126.91	111.38	132.30
17.	Haj Secretariat	5.00	4.82	4.56	5.00	5.35	4.89	5.00
18.	National Commission for Minorities	14.00	14.00	11.77	14.89	12.50	9.75	15.50
19.	Special officer for Linguistic Minorities	3.00	2.00	1.61	3.00	2.15	1.81	2.08
20.	Secretariat	35.62	43.81	42.07	37.81	44.10	39.61	47.15
	Total	3183.24	1868.18	1396.01	3350.00	2160.45	1518.33	3400.00

*Scheme discontinued.

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Community-wise, State-wise Statistics in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for AY 2021-22							
State	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Parsi	Jain	Buddhist	Total
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	85	207	4	0	0	0	296
ANDHRA PRADESH	14663	516	7	4	25	2	15217
ASSAM	46587	2390	47	6	52	29	49111
BIHAR	19604	23	17	0	4	6	19654
CHANDIGARH	76	1	40	0	0	0	117
CHHATTISGARH	1916	289	249	0	195	96	2745
DELHI	2563	30	261	0	65	4	2923
GOA	94	365	0	0	0	0	459
GUJARAT	20859	516	43	6	2096	10	23530
HARYANA	5407	14	2292	0	111	7	7831
HIMACHAL PRADESH	413	7	183	0	3	31	637
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	46818	43	720	4	6	10	47601
JHARKHAND	5223	256	15	0	5	0	5499
KARNATAKA	62106	8058	85	17	3132	521	73919
KERALA	42254	32050	4	3	21	3	74335
LADAKH	321	1	0	0	0	585	907
MADHYA PRADESH	19593	332	548	4	3036	125	23638
MAHARASHTRA	35503	1041	227	5	3213	2170	42159
MANIPUR	1092	3521	2	2	0	15	4632
MEGHALAYA	417	4883	7	4	0	7	5318
MIZORAM	8	1328	0	2	0	366	1704
NAGALAND	189	6211	1	3	6	15	6425
ODISHA	3253	738	8	0	6	27	4032
PUDUCHERRY	336	290	0	0	4	0	630
PUNJAB	1820	1028	52334	51	161	67	55461
RAJASTHAN	24757	47	3028	1	2158	64	30055
SIKKIM	4	84	0	0	0	201	289
TAMIL NADU	24571	27490	15	20	331	5	52432
TELANGANA	19078	1609	59	15	65	25	20851
THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	76	0	0	0	3	0	79
TRIPURA	1525	159	2	0	0	81	1767
UTTARAKHAND	4785	33	433	0	34	13	5298
UTTAR PRADESH	133032	195	1238	9	499	356	135329
WEST BENGAL	6084	382	9	2	7	76	6560
Total	545112	94137	61878	158	15238	4917	721440

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Community-wise, State-wise Statistics in Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for AY 2022-23#							
State	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Parsi	Jain	Buddhist	Total
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	16	28	0	0	0	0	44
ANDHRA PRADESH	3077	78	2	0	2	0	3159
ASSAM	225	28	0	0	1	0	254
BIHAR	1448	1	2	0	1	3	1455
CHANDIGARH	2	0	4	0	0	0	6
CHHATTISGARH	559	65	63	0	67	32	786
DELHI	326	0	40	0	6	0	372
GOA	21	63	0	0	0	0	84
GUJARAT	3840	80	9	0	424	0	4353
HARYANA	904	1	274	0	27	0	1206
HIMACHAL PRADESH	105	0	49	0	1	2	157
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	5597	6	114	1	2	2	5722
JHARKHAND	751	9	0	0	1	0	761
KARNATAKA	14354	2099	11	2	753	43	17262
KERALA	9987	5791	0	2	7	0	15787
LADAKH	31	0	0	0	0	32	63
MADHYA PRADESH	4150	77	129	0	881	18	5255
MAHARASHTRA	5622	142	49	0	906	418	7137
MANIPUR	277	422	0	0	0	2	701
MEGHALAYA	52	556	3	0	0	3	614
MIZORAM	4	161	0	0	0	27	192
NAGALAND	51	1218	0	0	0	3	1272
ODISHA	661	112	0	0	2	4	779
PUDUCHERRY	64	51	0	0	0	0	115
PUNJAB	255	108	7179	7	20	1	7570
RAJASTHAN	5865	9	769	0	595	18	7256
SIKKIM	0	16	0	0	0	19	35
TAMIL NADU	6631	7324	5	6	89	1	14056
TELANGANA	1716	12	2	0	4	2	1736
THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
TRIPURA	187	26	0	0	0	13	226
UTTARAKHAND	683	2	40	0	3	1	729
UTTAR PRADESH	24174	31	229	0	115	90	24639
WEST BENGAL	773	33	2	0	0	4	812
Total	92420	18549	8975	18	3907	738	124607

Beyond 2021-22 expenditure has been incurred towards committed liabilities only