

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1716
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2026

WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE SIKH MINORITY

1716. SHRI TARUN CHUGH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: -

- (a) the specific welfare and development schemes implemented for the Sikh minority community during 2025–26;
- (b) the steps taken for the preservation and development of the religious and cultural heritage sites of the Sikh community, including gurdwaras and affiliated institutions;
- (c) the progress made in the implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for Sikh community; and
- (d) whether Government is proposing to launch any new initiatives or enhancements for the Sikh minority in the coming years, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a to d): Ministry of Minority Affairs implements various schemes for socio-economic empowerment of the centrally notified minority communities including Sikhs in India. The schemes continued to be implemented during the year 2025-26 are as below:

1. PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYARAM (PMJVK)

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is a flagship programme of the Ministry aims at creation of community infrastructure in the Minority Concentration Areas of the country in the sectors viz. Health, Skill Development, Education, Women-Centric Projects, Drinking Water Supply, Sanitation, Sports, Renewable Energy, and Other Community Infrastructure. The infrastructure created under the scheme is for the benefit of the entire population of the respective areas. Being the scheme demand-driven, projects proposals are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations and executed, implemented and operated by them only.

Under the scheme an amount of Rs. 25 Cr. has been sanctioned to the University of Delhi in the year 2025-26 for establishment of the “Epicentre of Gurumukhi” to promote Gurumukhi Language, literature and cultural heritage through higher education and research, with modern academic and research facilities.

2. PRADHAN MANTRI VIRASAT KA SAMVARDHAN (PMVIKAS)

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS), a Central Sector scheme seeks to improve the socio-economic and educational status of the centrally notified minority communities across India by providing Skilling and Training, Leadership and Entrepreneurship and Education to empower the target group with livelihood. The scheme does not provide state wise allocation and is implemented through eligible Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), Government institutions, Central and State PSUs, Minority Community Institutions, Institutions of National Importance and Institutions of Eminence.

Under the scheme Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) has been allocated a target of 31,600 candidates for training including 29,600 candidates for training under the non-traditional component and 2,000 candidates under the Education component. In addition, four other PIAs are also implementing the Scheme in the State of Punjab.

3. SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

As the scheme is not presently in operation, only the committed liability payments under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) are being continued for existing beneficiaries.

4. PROGRAMMES OF NATIONAL MINORITY DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE COOPERATION (NMDFC)

Under the NMDFC loan schemes designed for socio-economic development of notified minorities, people with annual family income up to Rs. 3.00 lacs are eligible for financial assistance under Credit Line-1. Annual Family Income eligibility criteria under Credit Line-2 is upto Rs.8.00 Lacs. NMDFC implements its schemes through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State Govt/UT administration.

During the financial year **2025–26**, the assistance provided to beneficiaries belonging to the Sikh community under NMDFC schemes is as under:

Financial Year	Minority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Disbursement (Rs in crores)
2025–26	Sikh	972	Rs. 15.19

To increase coverage of Sikh beneficiaries under NMDFC program in Punjab in the coming years, NMDFC has made an annual allocation of ₹20 crore each for BACKFINCO, Punjab Gramin Bank. Besides, ₹ 20 crore each has been allocated to Canara Bank, and Union Bank.

5. PRIME MINISTER'S NEW 15-POINT PROGRAMME

As far as Prime Minister's New 15-Point Program is concerned, it is implemented for welfare of minorities in the country. The Program covers various schemes/initiatives of the Government implemented by various Ministries/Departments to ensure that underprivileged and weaker sections of six centrally notified minority communities, viz. Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh, have equal opportunities for availing various Government welfare schemes. The schemes are being implemented by the respective Ministries/Departments under the saturation approach of the Government.
