

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2502
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

**SPECIAL LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMMES FOR
MINORITY WOMEN IN ODISHA**

2502 SMT. SULATA DEO:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced any special leadership and capacity-building programmes for minority women in the State of Odisha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Under the erstwhile schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Ministry implemented the Leadership Development of Minority Women (Nai Roshni) scheme to empower and build their confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. The scheme aimed to enhance leadership qualities, promote awareness about rights and entitlements, and facilitate socio-economic empowerment of minority women. The scheme was implemented across the country, including the State of Odisha, through empanelled Project Implementing Agencies.

Further, the Ministry has now subsumed various welfare schemes under the integrated umbrella scheme PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan). PM VIKAS focuses on the socio-economic and educational empowerment of six notified minority communities through skill development, Leadership & entrepreneurship development, education support and infrastructure-related interventions.

Minority women, including from the state of Odisha, are eligible to participate in and benefit from the various components of PM VIKAS, including skill development, Leadership Development & Entrepreneurship and related capacity-building initiatives, subject to the scheme guidelines.
