

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2017**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MINORITY STUDENTS

5264.: SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD: KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH: SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: SHRI T.RADHAKRISHNAN: SHRI S.R.VIJAYAKUMAR: SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to minority students to study abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance given to students during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the criteria fixed by the Government for this purpose;
- (d) the details of the various schemes implemented by the Government for assistance of minority students;
- (e) the number of students benefited from these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to properly monitor these schemes?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

- (a) to (c): Yes, Madam. This Ministry implements a Scheme namely Padho Pardesh under which Interest subsidy is provided to students who have availed Loan under Loan Scheme of Indian Bank Association (IBA) for pursuing Masters, M.Phil & Ph.D abroad. Total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/ her parents/ guardians in case of unemployed candidate shall not exceed Rs. 6.00 lakh per annum, to avail the benefits under this scheme. Detailed Scheme guideline is available on the website of this Ministry i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

There is no State/UT-wise physical/financial allocation under the Padho Pardesh scheme. However, the achievements made under the scheme during the last three years and the current year is as under:

Year of release	Achievements (As on 31.03.2017)	
	No. of students benefitted	Amount of Interest subsidy provided (Rs. in Crore)
2013-14	Scheme operationalised in 2014-15	
2014-15	573	3.50
2015-16	815 (including Renewals)	4.15
2016-17	727 (including Renewals)	4.00

(d): Apart from the scheme of Padho Pardesh, this Ministry is also implementing following schemes for the upliftment of notified minority communities across the country:-

1. Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme
2. Post-matric Scholarship Scheme
3. Merit-cum-Mean based Scholarship Scheme
4. Maulana Azad National Fellowship
5. Free Coaching & Allied Scheme
6. Support to minority candidates clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC/SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc.
7. Nai Manzil
8. Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students.
9. Education Loan Schemes of NMDFC.

Detailed scheme guidelines of the schemes at S.No.1 to 7 are available on the website of this Ministry i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in, and in respect of the scheme at S.No.8 are available on the website of Maulana Azad Education Foundation i.e. www.maef.nic.in.

(e): The details of number of students benefitted under the above mentioned schemes during each of the last three years and the current year are as under :-

S.No.	Scheme	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1.	Pre-Matric Scholarship	7794190	7496593	5173434*	1704098#
2.	Post-Matric Scholarship	890467	905620	666195*	277137#
3.	Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship	100428	138770	133580*	43450#
4.	Maulana Azad National Fellowship	3776 (including Renewals)	4532 (including Renewals)	5288 (including Renewals)	6044 (including Renewals)
5.	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme	9997	8168	16427	8110
6.	Support to minority students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC/SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc	483	786	1071	858
7.	Nai Manzil	Operationalized in 2016-17			69840
8.	Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students	35159	45426	48000	45000
9.	Education Loan Schemes (Implemented by NMDFC)	4004	4331	3229	974

* Provisional Data as on 06.03.2017. Disbursement of scholarships for the year 2015-16 still continues.
#As on 28.03.2017

(f): The following steps have been taken/being taken by this Ministry for proper monitoring of the above mentioned schemes:-

The scheme of Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means based scholarships are now on National Scholarship Portal 2.0 (NSP-2.0), where online applications are obtained from the students. The scholarships are disbursed in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode to the eligible students verified by the

institutions and respective State Government/UT Administrations. The accounts of the students are authenticated by the banks. Periodic reviews are also undertaken with State Government/UT Administrations and banks.

The scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC) as per their norms and guidelines. Ministry takes periodic review with UGC.

Padho Pardesh is an interest subsidy scheme for higher studies abroad and implemented through banks. In this case the credentials of the students are verified by the banks. Ministry takes periodic review with the banks.

Scheme of Support for minority students clearing prelims conducted by UPSC/SSC/State Public Service Commissions etc. is directly implemented by the Ministry by calling online applications from the candidates selected in the Preliminary examinations conducted by UPSC/SSC/State Public Service Commissions etc. The funds are transferred directly in their bank accounts through DBT mode.

Free Coaching and Allied Scheme is implemented through Government/Private coaching institutions/NGOs empanelled by the Ministry. The coaching institutions are inspected by State Government/UT Administrations and officers of this Ministry wherever required. Ministry has also taken action for concurrent monitoring of the coaching programmes through an independent agency.

For monitoring of Nai Manzil scheme, a Project Management Unit has already been finalized. The monitoring will be done through State Government and third party also.

Maulana Azad Education Foundation has developed a portal for registration of applications for scholarship from the current financial year and bank account number of the applicants has been made mandatory in order to release the scholarships through DBT mode. The applications are also verified by the Principal of the school where the candidate is studying.

An independent agency is regularly engaged for inspection of beneficiaries financed by the respective SCAs to assess the utilization of loan and impact of NMDFC schemes on beneficiaries. NMDFC also carries out inspection of beneficiaries by sending its officials for field visits and the findings of the field visits are discussed during the Annual conferences and review meetings.
