

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6121  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2018**

**PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL PROSPECTS OF MUSLIM STUDENTS**

**6121. SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the low enrolment rate of Muslim students in higher education, especially women and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to promote the educational prospects of Muslim students?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. In the last several decades education of minorities especially Muslim girls had not been a priority area. This educational backwardness was more prominent in northern part of the country. In the last three years, the Government has focused on educational empowerment of minorities and as a result, about 2.45 Crore scholarships under various schemes have been disbursed to minorities in which girls, on average, comprise of 50%. Further, several educational infrastructural assets under Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) have been sanctioned in the last 3 years in the minority concentrated areas including 767 schools, 493 hostels, 60 gurukul type residential schools, 10 Degree colleges, 16 Polytechnic, 94 ITIs, and 13,985 additional Classroom. As per 'All India Survey on Higher Education, 2015-16' of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the enrolment of minority women has improved to 11,21,066 in higher education during 2015-16.

Besides above, the Government is also implementing the following schemes for the educational empowerment of six notified minority communities i.e. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian (Parsi) across the country:

- (i) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme (from Class I to X);
- (ii) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (for Class XI to Ph.D);
- (iii) Merit cum Means based Scholarship Scheme (for Technical and Professional Courses at undergraduate and post graduate levels);
- (iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) (for M.Phil. & Ph.D);
- (v) Padho Pardesh - Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for the Students Belonging to the Minority Communities;
- (vi) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme;
- (vii) Nai Udaan - Support for Students for preparation of Main Examination who clear Prelims conducted by UPSC/SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc.;
- (viii) Schemes of Maulana Azad Education Foundation- (a) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious girls belonging to minorities (for Class IX to XII) and (b) Grants-in-aid to NGOs for educational infrastructure development.

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