

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3654
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019**

Condition of Minority Women

3654. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR: SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN: SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: SHRI S. RAJENDRAN: KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the condition of minority women in the country and the problems generally encountered by them and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has initiated any scheme/programme to empower and instill confidence in minority women and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of non-Governmental organizations who have been trained for this purpose;
- (d) the funds allocated/utilized by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year for this purpose;
- (e) whether his Ministry has also initiated any scheme to empower women students from the Minority communities by preparing them for competitive exams and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase participation of Minority women in Government and private jobs in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam, keeping in view the low level of literacy among minority women, their socio-economic backwardness, general lack of awareness about Government programmes and social deprivation, Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing an exclusive scheme “Nai Roshni” for Leadership Development of Minority Women. The scheme aims to empower and instill confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. This includes economic empowerment of the trainee women so that they ultimately become independent and confident members of the society. The scheme provides one week training programmes followed by handholding for a period of one year. The training is provided on various pre-designed Training modules covering issues relating to women viz. Leadership of Women through participation in decision making, Educational Programmes for women, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights of women, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills, and Advocacy for Social and Behavioural change.

(c) The number of Non- Governmental Organizations selected and empanelled under the scheme for the purpose of providing training year wise is as below:

Sr. No.	Year	Number of Non- Governmental Organization
1.	2012-13	100
2.	2013-14	505
3.	2014-15	241
4.	2015-16	134 (empanelled for 2 years)
5.	2016-17	88
6.	2017-18 & 2018-19	639 Organizations have empanelled for 3 Years (2017-20) to provide training under the scheme.

(d) The funds allocated/utilized by the Ministry during each of the last three years and the current year for providing training under the scheme is as below:

Year	Funds Allocated (in Rs. Crore)	Funds Utilized (in Rs. Crore)
2014-15	14.00	13.78
2015-16	15.00	14.81
2016-17	15.00	14.68
2017-18	15.00	15.26
2018-19	15.00	11.72 (Nov,2018)

(e) & (f) The Ministry is implementing Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for minority candidates/students under which free coaching is provided to students belonging to six notified minority communities through selected coaching institutions/organisations for preparation of qualifying examinations for admission in technical / professional courses and competitive examinations for recruitment in Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments including public sector undertakings, banks, etc. 30% of the seats are earmarked for eligible girl students. Further, for economic empowerment of minority girls/women, minimum 33% seats have been earmarked in all Skill Development Schemes of the Ministry. **Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)**, an autonomous body under the Ministry, implements an exclusive "**Begum Hazrat Mahal Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Girls**" for scholarship in class IX,X, XI and XII and "**Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training**" for minorities to provide short term job oriented skill development courses to minorities' youth including minority women in order to enable them for skill based employment. In addition, "**National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)**", a Central Sector Public Enterprise under the Ministry, implements an exclusive scheme for minority women called "**Mahila Samridhhi Yojana**" for their economic empowerment, and also gives preference to women in its lending schemes, particularly Micro-Finance at concessional interest rates. Under the scheme "**Nai Roshni**" there is a provision for those women who are willing and can be further trained under any short duration training for Economic empowerment besides general handholding so that they could get sustainable economic livelihood opportunities through suitable wage employment or self-employment / micro-enterprises. In order to promote education including higher education, Ministry has earmarked minimum 30% seats for minority girls/women in its all educational schemes and about 50% of the total scholarships are availed by the girls.
