

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *477
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2019**

Education of Minority Girls

***477. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is devising a holistic policy for the encouragement of girls of minority communities for pursuing education and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons identified for the high dropout among girls of the minority communities; and
- (c) the key initiatives taken by the Government for creating awareness and encouraging the minorities towards education?

ANSWER

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

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *477ASKED BYDR. MANOJ RAJORIA FOR REPLY ON 25.07.2019, REGARDING 'Education of Minority Girls'.

(a) The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the following schemes for educational empowerment of students belonging to the six centrally notified minority communities viz. Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi, Muslim and Christian. At least 30% of the targets under the following schemes are earmarked for girl students-

- (i) Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes – for educational empowerment of the six centrally notified minority communities.
- (ii) Maulana Azad National Fellowship – Research Fellowship.
- (iii) NayaSavera – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme – to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates for employment through competitive examination and admission in technical and professional courses.
- (iv) PadhoPardes – Scheme for interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies in technical and professional courses.
- (v) NaiManzil- Scheme for formal school education & Skilling of school drop-outs.
- (vi) Begum Hazrat Mahal Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Girls to minority girl students from all the six centrally notified Minority communities studying in classes 9th to 12th.

The government during the last five years has provided 3.18 crores scholarships to students from amongst the six centrally notified Minorities. Out of these, girls constitute more than 50% of the beneficiaries. These scholarship schemes are now being implemented through the National Scholarship Portal and since 2015, the scholarships schemes are being fully implemented under direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode to improve the efficiency and bring transparency by removing duplicity and stopping pilferages.

Under Pradhan Mantri Jan VikasKaryakram (PMJVK), projects such as development of school buildings, additional class rooms, girls hostels and toilets, SadbhavMandaps, residential schools, ITIs, polytechnics, etc are being constructed for promotion of education and skill development.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) under the project of Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalayas, provide residential upper primary schools for girls from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Muslim/minorities.

Besides, the centrally-sponsored scheme of RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA) (which has now been included in the SamagraShikshaAbhiyan) envisaged enhancing the quality of education by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level, removal of gender socio-economic and disability barriers.

Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (**SPQEM**) (Department of School Education & Literacy) is a special initiative included in the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. The objective of the Scheme is to encourage traditional institutions like Madarsas and Maktabas by giving financial assistance to introduce science, mathematics, social studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that academic proficiency for classes I-XII is attainable for children studying in these institutions. The SQPEM is a demand driven scheme.

(b) A study done by National Productivity Council (NPC) on high dropout rate amongst minority communities in schools has indicated various socio-economic reasons for high dropouts, which are mainly as under:

- (i) Low income of parents
- (ii) Need to support the parents
- (iii) Illiteracy among parents
- (iv) Early Marriage among Girls students
- (v) Migration of parents in search of livelihood
- (vi) Inadequate availability of teachers
- (vii) Non-availability of toilet for girls

(c) The Government has taken up multi-media campaign to spread awareness of welfare schemes meant for minorities through print and electronic media, All India Radio Network including FM Channels, and websites all over the country. Pocket booklets and pamphlets on various schemes / programmes of the Ministry are published in Hindi, English, Urdu and other regional languages. In order to directly reach out to the public especially minority communities and spread awareness among them, 'Progress Panchayats' are organized in various places. Regional Coordination & Review Conferences are also held with State Governments from time to time where, inter-alia, information about the Ministry's schemes is provided. The Ministry also supports workshops and seminars organized by NGOs and State Organisations for creating awareness about its programmes and schemes.
