

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *239
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

REDUCTION IN BUDGETARY ALLOCATION

*239. SHRI KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reduced the budgetary allocation for the fiscal year 2023-24 by thirty eight per cent viz-a-viz the previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the upliftment of minorities in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *239 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023 ASKED BY
HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI KUNWAR DANISH ALI
REGARDING "REDUCTION IN BUDGETARY ALLOCATION"**

(a) to (c): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, specially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements various schemes across the country for socio- economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities. These schemes give representation to all weaker segments of society including minorities. The Schemes/ programmes implemented by the Ministry during the last five years are as under:

A. Educational Empowerment schemes

- (1) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (2) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (3) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme

B. Employment and Economic Empowerment Schemes

- (4) Pradhan Mantri Virasat ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)
- (5) Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for providing concessional loans to Minorities

C. Special Schemes

- (6) Jiyo Parsi: A Scheme for reversing the population decline of Parsis in India
- (7) Quami Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (QWBTS) and Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (SWSVY)
- (8) Research/Studies, Dissemination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes including Publicity

D. Infrastructure Development Schemes

- (9) Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

The budget of the schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs was reduced from Rs. 5020.50 crore for the FY 2022-23 to Rs. 3097.60 crore for the FY 2023-34 due to the following reasons:

(i) Adoption of new mechanism for release of Central share of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes, for which State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNA) were required to be appointed. As per the revised procedure of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, release of funds under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) are not tied to the individual projects and the amount available in the account of State Nodal Agency (SNA) forms a common pool. As on 01.03.2023, the unspent amount with the States in their SNA account is Rs. 2466.48 crore, and the States are required to first incur expenditure from the SNA account, to complete the ongoing projects.

(ii) Scholarship schemes of the Ministry were to be aligned with the pattern followed by the Education Ministry and other ministries such as Tribal Affairs and Social Justice. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for continuation of Scholarship schemes over the 15th Finance Commission cycle held on 23.09.2021 opined that since a Group of Secretaries (GOS) has been mandated to examine the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GOM) on revising the existing architecture of the scholarship schemes across various ministries and the changes that will be decided can only be prospective, it will not be possible to implement the same from this year and the scholarship schemes of MOMA may continue as it is upto 31.03.2022. EFC in its meeting held on 18.01.2023 examined the revised proposal and recommended the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Education Empowerment Scheme for the period 2022-23 to 2025-26. However, since verification of institutions is being carried out, funds under the Scholarship schemes are not being released. Further, Central Government has taken the decision to limit the coverage under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Minorities to only Classes IX and X based on very strong rationale. Firstly, it has been observed that the participation of students from Minority communities is at par with the national average at primary and elementary level. Also, the students at these levels are already covered under Right to Education (RTE) Act. Further, there was a felt need to harmonize the coverage under Pre-Matric Scheme for minorities with similar schemes implemented for other target groups like Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs.

(iii) These two flagship schemes of the Ministry –Scholarship Scheme and PMJVK Scheme together account for nearly 80% of the Ministry's budget.

(iv) Skilling schemes under Ministry of Minority Affairs have been amalgamated under the PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).
