

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3775
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

MERGING OF MINORITY MINISTRY

3775. SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a. whether the Government proposes to merge the Ministry of Minority Affairs with any other Ministry in near future;
- b. if so, the details thereof and all reasons therefor; and
- c. the reasons for the large budget reduction during 2023-24 towards achievement for empowerment and inclusive development for minority communities in order to strengthen multi diversity of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) The budget of the schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs was reduced 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, for release of funds to the State Governments, the releases of funds under PMJVK are not tied to the 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 can 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. 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) Skilling schemes under Ministry of Minority Affairs have been amalgamated under the PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).
