

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 37
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

BUDGET FOR MINORITY DEVELOPMENT

37. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced the budget for development of minorities in the country for the 2023-24 fiscal by 38 per cent from the previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the total allocation for educational empowerment for minorities, which was Rs. 2,515 crore in 2022-23, has been reduced to Rs. 1,689 crore in the current fiscal year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the quantum of funds spent on pre-matric scholarships, Ustad and Nai Manzil schemes, research schemes and the scheme for leadership development of minority women during the last five years and the current year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (b): 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, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Jal Shakti etc.

1. 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 VirasatkaSamvardhan (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)

2. 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 2023-24 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 17.07.2023, the unspent amount with the States is Rs. 4820.11 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. Central Government had 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 was 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) The two flagship schemes of the Ministry –Scholarship Scheme and PMJVK Scheme together account for nearly 80% of the Ministry's budget.

(iv) The Government has taken a decision to discontinue the following schemes from the Financial Year 2022-23:-

- (a) Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority students
- (b) Padho Pardesh
- (c) Free Coaching and Allied Schemes (Naya Savera)
- (d) Nai Udaan Scheme - Support for Minority Students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), State Public Service Commissions (SPSCs)

(iv) Skilling schemes (Skill Development Initiative, USTTAD, NAI Manzil, Hamari Dharohar and Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority women) under Ministry of Minority Affairs have been amalgamated under the PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).

(c): Against the budget allocation of ₹ 2,294 Crore for 2021-22, Rs 2,428Crore was allocated for 2022-23 for Pre-Matric, Post Matric, Merit cum Means Based Scholarship Scheme, MaulanaAzad National Fellowship and Padho Pardesh Scheme, as the Schemes were proposed for revision during 2022-23. During 2023-24, the allocation under the 3 scholarship schemes is ₹ 1542.00 Crore.

(d): The information regarding expenditure of the schemes implemented by Ministry of Minority Affairs during the last five years is available on the website of Ministry i.e. <https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/>. For current year i.e FY 2023-24, the budgetary allocation and expenditure of pre-matric scholarship, USTTAD, Nai Manzil scheme, Research/Studies, Dissemination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes including Publicityand scheme for leadership development of Minority women is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.	Name of the Scheme/Project	BE 2023-24	Expenditure (As on 17.7.2023)
1	Pre-matric scholarship	433.00	0.79
2	Research/Studies, Dissemination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes including Publicity	20.00	0.29
3	USTTAD	0.10	0.00
4	Nai Manzil	0.10	0.00
5	Scheme for leadership development of Minority women	0.10	0.00
