

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4270

TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.3.2020

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES

4270. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the socio-economic and educational status of minorities in the country;
- (b) the details of schemes which have been launched for minorities and the success achieved so far; and
- (c) the other steps taken to improve the socio-economic and educational status of minorities?

**A N S W E R
MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Minority Affairs has adopted a multi-pronged strategy by way of implementation of various schemes which aim at educational empowerment, employment-oriented skill development, infrastructure support, etc. for the upliftment of living standards of the six centrally notified minorities (Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains). Details of these schemes are as under:

(A) Educational Empowerment:

- (i) Scholarship Schemes - Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship. Since 2014-15, 3.74 crore scholarships have been provided.
- (ii) Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme with the aim to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates from minority communities to get employment in Government Sector/ Public Sector Undertakings, jobs in private sector and admission in reputed institutions in technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels.

- (iii) Nai Udaan - a scheme for providing support to minority candidates clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, State Public Service Commissions etc., to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the States.
- (iv) Padho Pardes - A scheme for providing interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies to enable students from minority communities to pursue higher education.
- (v) Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme provides financial assistance to students from notified minority communities, to pursue higher education such as M. Phil and Ph. D.
- (vi) In addition, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation implements the following two schemes:
 - (a) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for meritorious girls belonging to minorities from class IX to XII.
 - (b) Gharib Nawaz Employment Programme.

(B) Economic Empowerment:

- (i) Employment-oriented Skill Development: programme
 - (a) Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn): It is a skill development initiative for minorities and aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment.
 - (b) Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) - The scheme aims at capacity building and upgrading of the traditional skills of master craftsmen and artisans; documentation of identified traditional arts/crafts of minorities; set standards of traditional skills; training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts through master craftsmen; develop national and international market linkages; and preservation of languishing Arts/Crafts. Hunar Haats are organized in various parts of the country, which provides direct and indirect employment to skilled artisans and craft persons.
 - (c) Nai Manzil - A scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from minority communities.
- (ii) National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC) Loan Schemes which provide concessional loans for self-employment and income generating activities

for the socio- economic development of the backward sections amongst the notified minorities.

(iii) Priority Sector Lending by Banks.

(C) Infrastructure Support:

Besides, there is another Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), which aims at improving the socio-economic conditions of minorities and providing basic amenities so as to improve their quality of life and reduce imbalances in the identified Minority Concentration Areas. The major projects approved under the Education Sector and for Skill Development, include Residential Schools, School buildings, Hostels, Degree Colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics, Sadbhav Mandaps, Health Centers, Working Women Hostels etc. 80% of the resources under the scheme are earmarked for projects related to Education, Health and Skill Development. Further 33 to 40% of resources are allocated for women centric projects.

Also, under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, schemes/initiatives are being implemented by various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government throughout the country, including Ministry of Minority Affairs, either exclusively or by earmarking of 15% of overall physical/financial target, wherever feasible, for the welfare of notified minorities.

The details of various schemes, being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, as well as other Ministries/Departments for the welfare of minorities and the achievements made there under are available on the website of the Ministry of Minority Affairs at - www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

The details of finding of study by a High Level Committee (2005) regarding the 'Socio-economic and educational Status of the Muslim Community of India' are available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.
