

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 652
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021**

STANDARD OF LIVING OF MINORITIES

652. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the condition of minorities in the country at present with the various beneficial schemes that the Government has put in place;
- (b) whether any comparative study has been made for the improvement in the standard of living of minorities; and
- (c) if so, the details of such improvements seen during last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government is implementing various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every section of the society including minorities especially economically weaker & downtrodden sections all over the country with schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN), Pradhan Mantri UjjwalaYojana (PMUY), Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana (PMAY), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, etc.

Ministry of Minority Affairs also implements programmes/ schemes for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. These schemes/programmes in brief are as under:-

(1) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme - For educational empowerment of students through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

(2) Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme - Provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance.

(3) Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme - The Scheme aims to provide free coaching to students/candidates belonging to minority communities for qualifying in entrance examinations of technical/ professional courses and Competitive examinations.

(4) Padho Pardesh - Scheme of interest subsidy to students of minority communities on educational loans for overseas higher studies.

(5) Nai Udaan - Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commission (PSC) Staff Selection Commission (SSC) etc.

(6) Nai Roshni - Leadership development of women belonging to minority communities.

(7) Seekho Aur Kamao - Skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group and aiming at improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.

(8) Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) earlier known as MsDP - Implemented for the benefit of the people from all sections of the society in identified Minority Concentration Areas for creation of assets in education, skill and health sectors.

(9) Jiyo Parsi - Scheme for containing population decline of Parsis in India.

(10) USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development)

(11) Nai Manzil - A scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts.

(12) Hamari Dharohar- A scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority communities of India under the overall concept of Indian culture.

(13) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) implements education and skill related schemes as follows:- (a) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to the economically weaker sections of Minorities (b) Gharib Nawaz Employment Scheme started in 2017-18 for providing short term job oriented skill development training to youth (c) Bridge Course for madarsa students & school dropouts.

(14) Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for providing concessional loans to minorities for self-employment and income generating ventures.

In addition to the above, the Ministry also implements schemes for strengthening State Waqf Boards and coordinates arrangements for annual Haj pilgrimage.

The details of the schemes (S. No.1 to 12) mentioned above and status of their implementation are available on the website of this Ministry (www.minorityaffairs.gov.in) and those at serial No.(13) and (14) are available on the website of MAEF (www.maef.nic.in) and NMDFC (www.nmdfc.org) respectively.

Government is working with commitment to ensure Development with Dignity, Empowerment without Discrimination, which has ensured prosperity in life of weaker and other needy sections of the society including Minorities. The approach of the Government has led to Minorities being equal partners with other communities, in the educational & socio-economic development of the country.

These schemes are reviewed from time to time and restructured keeping in view the requirement of the minority communities. Further, performance under the schemes is also monitored on a continuous basis to ensure the desired outcome in terms of all round development of the notified minorities.
