

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3536**

ANSWERED ON 24.03.2022

**MINORITIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE**

3536. SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA:  
SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the number of people from minority communities living below Poverty Line (BPL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce any welfare schemes for improving living standards of minorities living below the poverty line; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

- (a) to (d) There is no such separate poverty assessment carried out for Minorities by the Government. The Government has implemented various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every section of the society including minorities especially economically weaker & underprivileged 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 Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (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 Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Muslims, Parsis and Jains. These schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry in brief are as under:-

**(A) Educational Empowerment**

- (i) Scholarship Schemes- Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship. During the last 7 years, more than 5.20 crore beneficiaries have been provided different scholarships through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) out of which more than 53% beneficiaries are female.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) In addition, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation implements the scheme viz. Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for meritorious girls belonging to minorities studying in Classes IX to XII.
- (iv) Naya Savera – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme which aims to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates from minority communities where total annual family income is less than Rs. 6 lakh, to get employment in Government Sector/ Public Sector Undertaking, jobs in private sector, and admission in reputed institutions in technical and professional courses at undergraduate and post-graduate levels. During last seven years 69,544 candidates have been benefitted under the Naya Savera scheme.

**(B) Economic Empowerment**

- (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. Since, 2014-15 approx. 3.92 lakh beneficiaries have been trained/allocated under the scheme.

- (b) A mission has been launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under “Upgrading the Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)” scheme to give an effective platform to minority artisans and culinary experts from across the country to showcase and market their finest handicraft and exquisitely crafted products through “Hunar Haats” organized by the Ministry. Ministry has engaged institutions of national repute namely, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), National Institute of Design (NID) and Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) to work in various craft clusters for design intervention, product range development, packaging, exhibitions and brand building etc. So far, Ministry has organised 38 “Hunar Haats” in which more than 5.5 lakhs artisans and people associated with them have been provided employment and employment opportunities, out of which more than 50% beneficiaries are women.
- (c) Nai Manzil - A scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from minority communities.
- (d) Gharib Nawaz Employment Training Programme for providing short-term job oriented skill development courses to youths belonging to minority communities.
- (e) National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC) Loan Schemes provide concessional loans for self-employment and income generating activities for the socio-economic development of the ‘backward sections’ amongst the notified minorities.

In addition, another scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, which aims to improve

the socio-economic conditions and basic amenities of minorities so as to improve their quality of life and reduce imbalances in the identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCA). In 2018, the areas covered under PMJVK was increased from 90 Districts originally to 308 Districts in 33 States/UTs. The MCAs included 870 Minority Concentration Blocks (MCBs) and 321 Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs), 109 Minority Concentration District Headquarters (MCD Hqrs). PMJVK has recently been restructured and approved by the cabinet on 19.01.2022 for continuation over the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Cycle. The Scheme is now being implemented in all Districts of the Country. The major projects approved under PMJVK are in sectors of education, health and skill, and include Residential Schools, School buildings, Hostels, Degree Colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics, Sadbhav Mandaps, Health Centres, Skill Centres, Sports facilities, Drinking Water facilities, sanitation facilities etc. In the last 7 years, under the “Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karykram” (PMJVK) more than 49,000 major infrastructure projects have been created such as schools, colleges, hostels, community centres, common service centres, ITIs, Polytechnics, Girls Hostels, Sadbhavana Mandap, Hunar Hub etc in backward Minority concentrated areas across the country.

Further, under Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for welfare of minorities, the Government ensures that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities. Under the programme, it is provisioned that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities. Details of the schemes being implemented by Ministry of Minority Affairs is available at [https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in /en/schemes performance](https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/en/schemes performance).

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