

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2267
ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

REDUCED BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

2267. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for reduction of budget allocation in the Union Budget for 2025-26 for critical education and welfare schemes targeting minority communities including the pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, merit-cum-means scholarships and schemes for madrasa education, despite the Government's previous promises of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas"; and
- (b) whether the Government plans to reverse the cuts and restore adequate funding to ensure that minority youth especially from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, have access to quality education and development opportunities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) & (b): Budget for FY 2024-25 was Rs. 3183.24 crore whereas budget allocation in the Union Budget for 2025-26 for the Ministry of Minority Affairs is Rs. 3350.00 crore. Hence, the budget is enhanced for FY 2025-26 for welfare of minority communities.

The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. Hence, only students studying in classes IX and X are covered under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of other Ministries/Departments. Likewise from 2022-23, the coverage under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs has also been restricted to class IX and X only. Further, the Scholarship Schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs has not been approved for implementation beyond 2021-22. Therefore, the budget allocation in the budget for the scholarship schemes for FY 2025-26 has been reduced.

The Department of School Education & Literacy implemented the Scheme for Providing Education in Madrasas/Minorities (SPEMM) upto 2020-21 and then transferred to Ministry of Minority Affairs. As the scheme was approved only upto 2021-22, the Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented this Scheme only for FY 2021-22.
