

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2812
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2025

HIGHER EDUCATION TO GIRLS BELONGING TO MINORITY COMMUNITIES

†2812. MRS RUCHI VIRA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government to promote higher education among girls belonging to minority communities in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to establish more Universities for minorities on the lines of A.M.U. if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of Universities, if any, established for minorities by the Union Government in Uttar Pradesh during the last ten years, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a): Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented various schemes for socio-economic empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities including various educational empowerment schemes such as (i) Pre-Matric, (ii) Post-Matric and (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships which are implemented across the country covering rural as well as urban areas. Under all the three schemes, 30% of the total scholarships are earmarked for girls.

Ministry of Education is implementing three component schemes under Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan Yojana (PM-USP) namely (i) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship (CSSS) for College and University Students, (ii) Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (SSS for J&K and Ladakh) (exclusively meant for students belonging to the Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) and (iii) Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS). Under PM-USP, 50% of the scholarship slots are earmarked for girl students. In November 2024, the Government of India has launched the PM Vidyalaxmi, a new Central Sector Scheme, wherein collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan is provided to all the students who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs), subject to schematic guidelines. All students including girls from minority communities are eligible to get the benefits of the scheme.

(b) & (c): Since Education is a concurrent subject, the state governments are also taking various initiatives to provide greater access to higher education in their respective states. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration for establishment of a new Central University exclusively for minorities.
