

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4509
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES IN ASSAM

†4509. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes being run for education, employment and economic empowerment of minority communities, especially the Muslim community of Assam;
- (b) the special measures taken/being taken to address citizenship concerns, economic backwardness and social discrimination faced by the Muslim community in Assam;
- (c) the name of the training and loan schemes being run to provide employment to the youth and for women empowerment of these communities; and
- (d) the initiatives taken/being taken by the Government to maintain social harmony in minority dominated areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) to (c): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including Muslim minority community, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society in the country. Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements following schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities viz. Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh. These schemes are as under:

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES:

The Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented the following three Scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment of the six centrally notified minority communities:

- i) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme;
- ii) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme; and
- iii) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme.

The details of these schemes are available in public domain on the website of the Ministry i.e. minorityaffairs.gov.in.”

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKRAM (PMJVK):

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is one of the flagship programs of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for creation of community infrastructure in the Minority Concentration Areas of the country in various sectors viz. Health, Skill Development, Women Centric Projects, Education, Drinking Water and

Supply, Sanitation and Sports. The aim of the scheme includes to boost the social and economic conditions of the Minority Communities including Muslims of that particular area.

PRADHAN MANTRI VIRASAT KA SAMVARDHAN (PM VIKAS)

The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan(PMVIKAS) as a Central Sector Scheme which converges five erstwhile schemes viz. 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'Nai Manzil', 'Nai Roshni', 'USTTAD' and 'Hamari Dharohar' schemes.

The scheme focuses on socio-economic upliftment of six notified minority communities, through the following:

- i. Skilling and Training (Non-traditional and traditional)
- ii. Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- iii. Education (through National Institute of Open Schooling)
- iv. Infrastructure Development (through Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram)

The scheme also facilitates credit linkages by connecting beneficiaries with loan programs offered by the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

NATIONAL MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION (NMDFC)

NMDFC implements its schemes for socio-economic empowerment including educational empowerment of "backward sections" including women among the notified minority communities by providing concessional loan for self-employment income generation ventures & education loan for technical & professional courses, across the country. The schemes of NMDFC are implemented through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by respective State Government / UT Administration.

The State Government of Assam has recently nominated Assam Minorities Development Board (AMDB) as the new State Channelizing Agency (SCA) to implement NMDFC schemes in the state of Assam. AMDB has signed General Loan Agreement (GLA) with NMDFC. However, Government Guarantee from State Government in favour of AMDB is awaited for drawl of funds from NMDFC.

(d): To promote social harmony and understanding among the different minority religious communities, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, regularly holds interfaith meetings (Sarv Dharm Samvad) with the representatives of minority communities, including Muslim community and celebrations of festivals of all religions.
