

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4272
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2026

EMPOWERING MINORITY WOMEN & ACCESS TO EDUCATION

4272. DR. PRABHA MALLIKARJUN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the status of educational access and retention among minority students particularly girls and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether schemes aimed at empowering minority women through education, skill training and economic participation are yielding desired outcomes and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether barriers such as financial constraints, social factors and lack of institutional support continue to affect participation and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to strengthen scholarships, hostels, coaching and capacitybuilding initiatives for minority women; and
- (e) whether minority women and girl students in districts like Davanagere are receiving adequate institutional support to continue education and skill training especially at the secondary and higher levels and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): It is the mandate of the Ministry of Education to oversee all aspects related to access and retention of students including minority students across the country.

Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements the three Scholarship schemes namely Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship for the six notified religious minority communities. However, these Scholarship schemes have not been approved for implementation beyond the academic year 2021-22.

Further, this Ministry also implements various schemes for the upliftment of economically disadvantaged group from minority communities. The Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme aims to build capacity of minority communities through targeted interventions by providing skill training support in need-based courses and ensuring employment / livelihood opportunities for them. The objective of the scheme is also to empower women from minority communities and instill confidence amongst them by providing leadership and entrepreneurship support. The scheme is open for the entire country including the district of Davanagere.
