

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1349  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011  
PROGRESS OF WELFARE SCHEMES  
Viswanathan Shri P.

**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether meagre funds were released for the implementation of welfare schemes for minorities in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve the status of the minority communities?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) and (b): In 2007-08, against the plan budget (Revised Estimates) of Rs. 350 crore for the Ministry, Rs. 196.65 crore (58.18%) were released to States / UTs for implementation of schemes for welfare of minorities. In 2008-09, the plan budget (Revised Estimates) was enhanced to Rs. 650 crore, of which Rs. 619.02 crore (95.23%) were released. In 2009-10, the plan budget (Revised Estimates) was further increased to a level of Rs. 1740 crore and Rs. 1710.89 crore (98.33%) were released. The plan budget for the year 2010-11 is Rs. 2500 crore (Revised Estimates) and so far Rs. 172184 crore (68.87%) have been released.

(c): Government has introduced schemes for improving the status of minorities and these include Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme, Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme for technical and professional courses, Maulana Azad National Fellowship for research scholars, Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for students from the minority communities and a special area development programme called Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) in 90 minority concentration districts. In addition to these, the corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) and authorized share capital of the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) have been enhanced from Rs. 100 crore and Rs. 650 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 550 crore and Rs. 1000 crore in 2010-11, respectively. Further, under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities, it has been ensured that wherever possible, 15% targets and outlays under various schemes amenable to targeting have been earmarked for minorities and a certain proportion of development projects are located in minority concentration areas.