

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:507
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012
WELFARE OF MINORITIES
Singh Shri Sukhdev

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has focused its attention on minorities welfare particularly for Sikh Community in each State of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the financial assistance given to the Sikh Community in the areas of special-heritage, education, health and employment generation during the said period?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The following Schemes/ Programmes are being implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of minorities including the Sikh community:-

(i) Multi-sectoral Development programme (MsDP): This is an area development programme which aims to address the development deficit identified by a baseline survey by improving the socio-economic infrastructure and basic amenities in the 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs). The financial allocation is not made religion/community-wise. The State/UT wise details of funds released during the last three years and current year are at Annexure-I.

(ii) The Prime Minister's new 15 Point Programme: Under this Programme various welfare Schemes for the minorities including the Sikh community are being implemented. An important aim of the programme is to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities. In order to ensure that the benefits of these schemes flow equitably to minorities, the programme envisages the location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for the minorities. No segregated minority community-wise data is maintained by the agencies implementing the schemes.

(iii) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme implemented since 2007-08. No religion-wise disaggregated data is maintained.

(iv) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme implemented since 2008-09.

(v) Post-matric Scholarship Scheme implemented since 2007-08.

(vi) Merit cum Means Scholarship implemented since 2007-08.

(vii) Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students implemented since 2009-10.

(viii) Schemes of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

(c) The number of scholarships awarded for the last three years and the current year to students of the Sikh community State-wise, are at Annexure- II (Pre-matric), Annexure- III (Post-matric), Annexure- IV (Maulana Azad National Fellowship) and Annexure-V (Merit cum Means Scholarship). The details of concessional term loans extended to the Sikh community during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-VI.