

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3149
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
BENEFITS OF SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal;Patel Shri Devji

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the definition of minority community and the communities which are covered under this definition;
- (b) the details of Government's resolution under which Jain Community is accorded the sanction as minor community;
- (c) whether the Jain Community has not benefited under the scholarship schemes; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a) As per existing procedures, minority communities are those communities which are declared by the Central Government as minority under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. The Central Government has notified Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Parsis (Zoroastrians) as minorities under this Act.
- (b) There is no such resolution of the Government of India declaring Jains as a minority community.
- (c) The Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs are meant for the five notified minority communities and as the Jains have not been declared as a minority community, the benefits of the scholarship schemes are not available to them.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.