

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4138

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

IMPLEMENTATION OF WELFARE SCHEMES FOR MINORITIES

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Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the funds allocated for the implementation of welfare schemes for minorities in the country are being utilized properly;
- (b) if so, the details of funds allocated and utilized during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to monitor the utilization of funds being provided for the welfare of the minorities;
- (d) whether the Union Government has noticed any unlawful activities by the minority institutions receiving funds;and
- (e) ifso, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI NINONG ERING)

(a) Yes, Madam. However, it has come to the notice of Government that some of the State Governments delayed utilization of the funds released by the Ministry to them. The reason for such delay may be attributed as:

- (i) Delay in identification of locations by the State for the projects.
 - (ii) Land availability problem.
 - (iii) Inordinate. delay in transfer of funds by the State Government to the district authority/implementing agencies.
 - (iv) State share not released by some of the States.
 - (v) Delayed identification of implementing agency.
- (b) Details of the fund allocated and utilized during the last three years and the current year are given at Annexures- I to V.

(c) To ensure the effective utilization of the funds being provided for the welfare of the minorities, the Government has put in place proper monitoring mechanisms. The progress of implementation of Multi sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) is monitored by a three tier mechanism. The Empowered Committee at the centre under the chairmanship of Secretary, Minority Affairs serves as the Oversight Committee to monitor the progress of implementation on a quarterly basis. The progress under MsDP is also reviewed on half yearly basis by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) along with the PM's New 15 Point Programme. The Committee of Secretaries' observations are reviewed by the Union Cabinet on six monthly basis. The progress of implementation of the programme is also monitored by this Ministry with the States/UTs through regular meetings and conferences as well as personal site visits by the officials. Besides this, the State Level Committees and District Level Committees, constituted for implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme, are the designated Oversight Committees at the State and District levels to monitor the progress of implementation of MsDP. Further, the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to submit projectwise quarterly progress reports on the implementation of MsDP to the Ministry of Minority Affairs. To ensure the intended benefits are passed on to the targeted minority population, the Ministry has proposed to restructure MsDP to allow for sharper focus on minority areas so that assets created are located in blocks/towns with substantial minority population.

To help evaluation of flow of benefits, disaggregated data for the different minority communities has now been sought from all ministries under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme and the States/UTs have also been requested to provide better and timely feedback. Social audit and the appointment of an independent agency for concurrent monitoring and evaluation of various schemes included in PM's New 15 PP are being formulated for implementation during the 12th Five Year Plan period. The mid-term evaluation studies are carried out by a third party to assess the impact of the scheme on the ground. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was entrusted with the assessment of the implementation of schemes of the ministry including Multi sectoral Development Schemes (MsDP) in 20 States/UTs. The overall findings of the evaluation study regarding the implementation of the schemes at grass root level were satisfactory

The scholarship schemes are reviewed regularly through Video Conferencing, interaction with the State Governments at regular intervals and field visits by the Ministry officials. The Scholarship Schemes are being restructured to allow for greater transparency and accountability during their processing and sanction besides converting these schemes into online scheme for the ease of students. The Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS) was introduced for the Merit-cum-Means scholarship scheme in 2010-11 and has now been extended to Post Matric scholarship scheme in 2012-13. This will allow for more effective and speedier processing of applications and sanction as the whole process will be online..

The performance of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) and the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) are monitored by the Ministry regularly through quarterly review meetings. The computerization for online processing of applications for scholarships and grants-in aid to NGOs has been implemented in MAEF. Three evaluation studies were carried out for schemes implemented by (MAEF) in 2001 by the Indian Institute of Public Opinion (IIPO), in 2007 by the Operations Research Group (ORG) and an Evaluation cum Asset Verification of MAEF 2010 by the Indian Social Institute (ISI). These studies have appreciated the task being carried out by MAEF and recommended augmentation of the Corpus Fund of MAEF. NMDFC had got an Impact Evaluation Study of its schemes carried out during 2012 -13 through National Institute for Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development (NIESBUD) under Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise, Government of India.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.