

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:436
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013
SKILL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the scheme for Skill Development initiatives to enhance employment and livelihood skills of the minorities;
- (b) whether the Government intends to take or has taken any steps to provide better marketing facilities to those artisans belonging to the minority communities; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Minority Affairs has formulated a scheme for "Skill Development of Minorities". The scheme aims to promote and conserve traditional skills of minorities and establish their linkages with market and to improve employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc. Under the scheme, the priority will also be given to promote the traditional skills including arts and crafts practiced by minority communities and establish their linkages with the national and global market. However, the training for various modern trades having employment potential in the region shall also be encouraged. The action has been taken by the Ministry for approval of the scheme during current financial year as per laid down procedure.

Also, the Ministry through the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise, inter-alia, implements promotional schemes of Vocational Training and Marketing Assistance scheme. The Vocational Training scheme aims to impart skills to minority beneficiaries to enable them to earn self/wage employment. The Marketing Assistance scheme provides assistance to craft persons to promote marketing and sale of their products. Both the Schemes have recently been revised for better delivery of services to the targeted minorities.