

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:262

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013

WELFARE OF MINORITIES

Nishad Capt.(Retd.) Jainarayan Prasad;Rana Shri Kadir

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the various schemes under implementation for the welfare of the minorities in the country, Scheme-wise;
- (b) the funds allocated/utilised under the said schemes and the number of families/ persons benefited by these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme and State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether a number of States have failed to pass on the benefits of welfare schemes to the minorities particularly to the muslims in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the effective measures taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of the schemes implemented for minorities actually reach the intended beneficiaries?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 262 to be answered on 29.08.2013

(a) The details of the welfare schemes for minorities being implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs are given below:

(i) Multi sectoral Development Programme (MsDP): This is an area development scheme aims to improve the quality of life of the people and reducing imbalances in the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs). Identified development deficits` are addressed through a district specific plan with provision of infrastructure creation for schools, sanitation, pucca housing, drinking water and electricity supply, besides beneficiary oriented schemes. The focus of this programme is on rural and semi-rural areas of the identified 90 minority concentration districts. The scheme has been restructured for implementation during 12th Five Year Plan. Block has been made the unit of planning in place of district, the programme has been expanded to minority concentration towns/cities and cluster of minority concentration villages. The restructured programme covers 710 Minority Concentration Blocks (MCBs) & 66 Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) covering 196 districts of 26 States in the country. This would sharpen the focus on minority concentration areas.

(ii) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme:-Under this Scheme, scholarships are awarded to minority students up to class X, who have secured not less than 50% marks in the previous final examination and the annual income of their parents/ guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

(iii) Post-matric Scholarship Scheme:- Under this Scheme, scholarships are awarded to minority students from class XI onwards who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and the annual income of whose parents/guardian from all sources does not exceed Rs.2.00 lakh. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

(iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship For Minority Students:-The objective of the Fellowship is to provide integrated five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to minority students to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The Fellowship covers all Universities /Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

(v) Merit-cum Means based Scholarship: The Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme provides financial assistance to the poor and meritorious minority students pursuing professional studies at graduate and post-graduate levels. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

(vi) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme: Under this scheme candidates belonging to the minority community are provided financial assistance for coaching in Government and the private sector institutes for imparting coaching/training for Competitive Exams, Information Technology and other employment oriented courses. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

(vii) Equity contribution to National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC): Under this scheme, Government contributes equity capital to NMDFC for implementation of its schemes at concessional rates of interest which are viz. micro financing scheme, term loan, educational loans, skill development and Mahila Samridhi Yojana etc.

(viii) Grant-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF): Under this scheme, Grant-in-aid released to MAEF towards its Corpus Fund. MAEF provides Grant-in-aid to the minority institutions for infrastructure development and distribution of scholarship to the minority girl students studying in classes XI and XII. The expenditure on these schemes is met out of the interest earned on the Corpus Fund.

(ix) Computerization of records of State Wakf Boards: In order to streamline record keeping of the waqf lands, introduce transparency & social audit, to computerize the various functions /processes of the Waqf Boards and to develop a single web based centralized application, computerization of the records of the State Waqf Boards is carried out with the help of Central financial assistance.

(x) Nai Roshni:- A scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women has been launched with the objective to empower and instill confidence in women, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques to interact with Government systems, banks, and intermediaries at all levels so that they are emboldened to move out of the confines of home and assume leadership roles.

(xi) Skill Development Initiative- The Ministry has formulated a new scheme in 2013-14 for skill development of minorities under the brand name "Seekho Aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)". The scheme aims at upgrading the skills of minority youths in various Modular Employable Skills (MES) including Traditional trades depending upon their educational qualification, aptitude and capability, present economic trends and industry readiness. The scheme aims at 75% employment including 50% in organized sector to the youths trained in MES. The component of skill up-gradation in traditional trades envisages identification and collectivization of the minority youths involved in traditional trades into Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Producer companies and provide forward (customer access) and backward linkages (vendor access) including support in getting financial assistance from lending institutions for self-employment. Ministry has already started the process of implementation of the scheme during current financial year.

(b) The scheme-wise and State-wise achievements made under various schemes for the last three years and the current year are given at Annexures I to VIII.

(c) The benefits of the welfare schemes are not reaching fully to the minorities particularly to the muslims at the grass root level in some States/UTs because some of the State Governments /UT administrations have delayed the implementation of welfare schemes for the reasons given below:

(i) Non submission of district plans in time by States/UTs.

(ii) Delay in identification of locations by the State for the projects with substantial minority population.

(iii) Land availability problem.

(iv) Inordinate delay in transfer of funds by the State Government to the district authority /implementing agencies.

(v) State share not released by some of the States.

(vi) Delayed identification of implementing agency, and.

(vii) Non submission of utilization certificates on time.

(viii) Non submission of scholarship proposals on time.

(ix) Not forwarding of the Free Coaching proposals before the closing date.

(d)&(e) To ensure the intended benefits are passed on to the targeted minority population including muslims, the Ministry has restructured MsDP to allow for sharper focus on minority areas so that assets created are located in blocks/towns with substantial minority population. In this regards 710 blocks and 66 towns have been identified as unit of implementation of MsDP for the 12th Five Year Plan.

The progress of implementation of 15PP/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 in which MPs and MLAs, representatives from Panchayati Raj Institutions/Autonomous District Councils and representatives from reputed Non-Governmental Institutions dealing with Minorities are included. The Department dealing with Minorities of the State/UT monitors the PM's New 15 PP in State/UT. Further, the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to submit project-wise quarterly progress reports on the implementation of MsDP to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The scholarship schemes are reviewed regularly through interaction with the State Governments at regular intervals and field visits by the ministry officials. The Online Scholarship Management System (OSMS) introduced for the Merit-cum-Means scholarship scheme in 2010-11 has now been extended to Post Matric scholarship scheme in 2012-13.

The performance of MAEF and NMDFC are monitored by the Ministry through regular quarterly review meetings. The computerization for online processing of applications for scholarships and grants- in aid to NGOs has been implemented in MAEF.

Multimedia campaigns i.e. publicity through electronic and print media are carried out with priority to Minority Concentration Districts for dissemination of information about the Schemes, are some of the measures for increasing awareness/coverage among the target beneficiaries the of minorities including Muslims.