

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
TRADITIONAL SKILLS OF MINORITIES
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's initiatives in promoting and conserving traditional skills of minorities under 'Skill Development of Minorities' scheme has yielded desired results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the traditional skills of minorities identified, so far; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve and promote these skills?

Answer

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA)

(a) to (d): In compliance with the Budget announcement made by Finance Minister on 10th July 2014, Ministry of Minority Affairs formulated a scheme namely 'Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)' with a total project cost of Rs, 95 Crore for the remaining period of 12th Five Year Plan including current financial year. The scheme aims to build capacity and update traditional skills of master craftsmen/artisans; train young generation; identify and document traditional arts /crafts of minorities to preserve them; link traditional arts/ crafts with the growing market; and research and development in traditional skills. The operationalization of the scheme is dependent on the availability of funds in the budget of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.