

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1564
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015
EDUCATION TO MINORITIES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the new initiatives taken by the Government for education of minorities, specially Muslims in the country;
- (b) the details of hurdles and handicaps in proper educational development of minorities and the implementation of schemes;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to overcome them; and
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to provide financial assistance to all minority students for their education from class 1 to Ph.D and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): The Government has been implementing various minority education schemes especially for Muslims. A total of 15% of the outlay under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is targeted for the Minority Concentration Districts (MCD)/Areas to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education, to meet infrastructure gaps for schools, classrooms, teachers and providing access by opening new schools. Other initiatives which also benefit minorities and Muslims include the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarasas (SPQEM), the Scheme of Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutions (IDMI), the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme (JNV), setting up of Girls Hostels, Model Schools under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), establishment of the Model Degree Colleges, Women Hostels and Polytechnics in the Minority Concentration Districts. Setting up of Block Institutes of Teacher Education, Appointment of Language Teachers, providing modern education to Madarasas under National Institute of Open Schooling and the easing of norms for affiliation of Minority Educational Institutions, are some of the important initiatives undertaken by the Government.

(b) & (c): The achievements made under the affirmative interventions under various schemes for promotion of education of the minorities have been quite encouraging. Trends indicate consistent increase in the enrolment of Muslim children at the elementary level. The enrolment of Muslim children at Primary level as a percentage of total enrolment has increased from 9.4% in 2006-07 to 14.2% in 2012-13, and at the Upper Primary level, the enrolment has increased from 7.2% to 12.1% during the same period. This has induced the Govt. to further intensify its continued efforts for the promotion of education of the minorities, especially of Muslims.

(d): The University Grants Commission is implementing the following schemes for minority communities in Central Universities during XI and XII Plan:-

- i) Centre for Professional Development of Urdu Medium Teachers in three central universities.
- ii) Establishment of Residential Coaching Academy for Minorities, SC/ST and Women in four Central Universities and one in Deemed University.
- iii) Establishment of Satellite Campus for undergraduate, Postgraduate, Programmes in Arabic and Persian.
- iv) Establishment of two Campuses of Aligarh Muslim University.
- v) Establishment of Model School, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), B.Ed. Colleges, Polytechnics under the ambit of Maulana Azad National Urdu University.
- vi) Since 2009, the UGC has been implementing the scheme of Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students which is being funded by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India. Under this scheme, the UGC provides financial assistance to selected candidates belonging to minority communities for pursuing M.Phil./Ph.D. research in University/College/Institution and Non-Institutions in the country.

The other schemes of UGC from which Minorities can benefit are:-

- (i) Remedial Coaching For SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and Minority Community Students

- (ii) Coaching For NET/SET for SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) & Minority Community Students
- (iii) Coaching Classes for Entry into Services for SC/ST/OBC (Non Creamy Layer) and Minority Community Students
- (iv) Coaching Scheme for Residential Academies for Minorities/SC/ST and Women.

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The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing the various schemes for the Educational Empowerment of students belonging to the notified minority communities as under:-

- (i) Pre-matric Scholarship for students in classes (I to X). Students should have secured at least 50% marks and annual income of parents/guardian should not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh to be eligible.
- (ii) Post-matric Scholarship for students in classes (XI to Ph.D). Students should have secured at least 50% marks and annual income of parents/guardian should not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh to be eligible.
- (iii) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship for students pursuing Professional and Technical courses at Under- Graduate and Post-Graduate levels. Students should have secured at least 50% marks or pass the competitive entrance exam and annual income of parents/ guardian should not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakh to be eligible.
- (iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) for students pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D. The scheme is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC). Students should have secured at least 50% marks or pass the competitive entrance exam and annual income of parents/guardian should not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakh to be eligible.
- (v) Interest Subsidy for Overseas studies: Under this scheme, 100 % interest subsidy is given on Educational Loan availed under Indian Banks Association (IBA) Educational Loan Scheme by minority students for study abroad at Masters, M. Phil and PhD. levels. The annual income of parents/guardian should not exceed Rs. 6.00 lakh to be eligible.

In all the Scholarship/Fellowship Schemes, 30% of the physical targets are earmarked for girl students. The annual physical targets for fresh scholarships/ fellowships are distributed State/UT-wise and Community-wise on the basis of their minority community population as per 2001 census. These are Central Sector Schemes with 100% Central funding.

The Department of Financial Services has provided the list of Minority Concentration Districts to all the Scheduled/Commercial Banks who have been asked to ensure that the minority communities receive a fair and equitable portion of credit within the overall target of the priority sector. Pursuant to the Cabinet decision in June, 2007, the Public Sector Banks have been advised by the Government to step up their Minority Community Lending (MCL) to 15% of their Priority Sector Lending (PSL). Loans to individuals for educational purposes including vocational courses upto Rs.10.00 lakh for studies in India and Rs.20.00 lakh for studies abroad are covered under Priority Sector lending. Thus, minority community students are benefitted from the provisions of 15% of PSL to Minority Communities.