

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINORITY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2122  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014  
SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL UPLIFTMENT OF MINORITIES  
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**Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the definition of minorities;
- (b) the details of the communities in the country which have been classified as minorities; and
- (c) the details of programmes launched/ going to be launched by the Union Government for their social and educational upliftment, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA)

(a)&(b) As per the National Commission for Minorities(NCM) Act, 1992, Minority for the purpose of this Act, means a community notified as such by the Central Government. Accordingly, the Central Government vide Notification dated 23.10.1993 declared five minority communities under Section 2 (c) of National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992 [viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist and Zoroastrians (Parsis)]. Subsequently, vide Notification dated 27.01.14, the "Jain" community was added to the list of minority communities under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

(c) For the social and educational upliftment of Minority Communities, the following schemes have been launched by this Ministry:

- (i) Multi Sectoral Development Programme(MsDP)
- (ii) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (iii) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- (iv) Merit cum Means Scholarship Scheme
- (v) Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme
- (vi) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme
- (vii) Micro financing scheme, term loan, educational loans, skill development and Mahila Samridhi Yojana etc provided by National Minorities Development Finance Corporation
- (viii) Nai Roshini for girls
- (ix) Seekho aur kamao
- (x) Jiyo Parsi
- (xi) Nalanda Project
- (xii) Minority Cyber Gram
- (xiii) Padho Pardesh
- (xiv) Support for Minority students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, State Public Service Commission.
- (xv) Computerisation of records of State Wakf Boards
- (xvi) Grant-in-aid to minority institutions for infrastructure development and distribution of scholarship to the minority girl students studying in Classes XI and XII from Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF).

The details of the funds allocated for the schemes of MsDP, Scholarships, Free Coaching & Allied Scheme, Nai Roshini, Seekho aur Kamao are placed at Annexures I to VI.

Besides the above, the following new schemes are under consideration of this Ministry for all States:

- (i) USTAAD:- The Scheme aims at upgrading Skills and Training in preservation of traditional Ancestral Arts/Crafts of minorities.
- (ii) Hamari Dharohar:-The Scheme aims to preserve rich heritage of minority communities under over all context of Indian culture.
- (iii) Khwaza Garib Nawaz Senior Secondary School will be established at Ajmer by Maulana Azad Education Foundation(MAEF) to give a fillip to minority education.
- (iv) Nai Manzil:- A bridge course to bridge the academic and skill development gaps of the deeni Madrasa passouts with their main stream counterparts.
- (v) Strengthening:- of State Wakf Boards:- The scheme envisages to provide assistance for meeting the training and administrative cost of State Wakf Boards, removal of encroachment from Wakf Properties and also strengthening of Zonal/Regional offices of Wakf Boards.