

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2520
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
PROGRAMMES FOR MINORITIES
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Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes any programme/policy for the betterment of minority communities; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Rajasthan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)

(a) & (b) The following programmes are being implemented by this Ministry for the betterment of minority communities all over India including Rajasthan:

I. Educational Empowerment Schemes

- a) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- b) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme
- c) Merit-cum-Means Based Scholarship Scheme:
- d) Free Coaching & Allied Scheme
- e) Maulana Azad National Fellowship
- f) Padho Pardesh: Interest Subsidy for overseas studies
- g) Support to minority candidates clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)/ Staff Selection Commission (SSC), State Public Service Commission (PSC) etc.

II. Women Empowerment Scheme

- a) Nai Roshni – Leadership Development of Minority Women

III. Economic Empowerment Schemes

- a) Term Loans, Micro-Finance and Educational Loans at concessional rates by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).
- b) Mahila Samridhi Yojana - training in a vocational trade linked with Micro-Finance among minority Women by NMDFC.
- c) Seekho aur Kamao – Upgrading the skills of Minority Youth which can earn them suitable employment or enable them to go for self-employment.

IV. Area Development Programme

- a) Multi-sectoral Development Programme – To address the development deficits by creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities.

V. Vulnerable Minority Community Development

- a) Jiyo Parsi – Focuses on advocacy/outreach programmes to generate awareness among Parsi population for lineage enhancement.

The state-wise details of the above schemes are available on the website of this Ministry at www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

In addition, the following new initiatives have been taken up by this Ministry:

- i. USTTAD for upgrading the skills and training in traditional arts/crafts.
- ii. Hamari Dharohar for preserving rich heritage of minority communities of India under the overall concept of Indian culture.
- iii. Cyber Gram for Digital Literacy.
- iv. MANAS For wider expansion of entrepreneurship and skills development with credit linkages.
- v. Nai Manzil to enhance sustainable inclusive learning through mainstream formal education and skill certification for the School/Madarsa dropouts from the minority communities.