

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3653
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
TRADITIONAL SKILLS OF MINORITIES
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni);Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to launch Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the scheme;
- (c) the time by which USTTAD is likely to be launched;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to trained people to set up their own enterprises under the said scheme; and
- (e) if so, the manner in which the said assistance is likely to be extended?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): A new scheme 'USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development)' has been approved during 2014-15 to preserve traditional arts/crafts of minorities and build capacity of poor traditional artisans/craftsmen. The trained traditional master artisans/ craftsmen may be involved in training of minority youths who are between 14-35 years of age and minimum Class-V qualified, in traditional arts/crafts, particularly dying arts/crafts. 33% earmarking has been done for minority girls/women. The scheme also aims to develop standards for traditional arts/crafts and their documentation. In addition, the scheme aims to establish linkages of traditional arts/crafts with the national and international market and ensure dignity of labour. The Ministry intends to operationalize the scheme during current financial year.

(d) & (e): The Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) are required to provide training through trained Master Artisans/ craftsmen to Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Producer companies of minorities. After training, the PIAs are required to provide forward (customer access) and backward linkages (vendor access) to SHGs and assist them in development of business plan, availing of Micro-finance from the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), Banks and other financial institutions, and in hiring the management team.