

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3657
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
MINORITY LABOURERS
Teacher Smt. P.K.Sreemathi

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to connect labourers belonging to the minority sections to the bigger market networks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the scheme of `Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)`, a Skill Development Initiative for Minorities. The scheme aims at upgrading the skills in various modern/traditional trades depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them a suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment. The scheme ensures placements of minimum 75% trainees by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), out of which at least 50% placement is in organized sector. In case of such trades, where the Self Help Groups are formed, they are supported by the PIAs for forward and backward linkages. The labourers of the minority community eligible as per norms, are covered under this scheme.

Further, a new scheme `USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development)` has also been approved during 2014-15 to preserve rich heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities and build capacity of poor traditional artisans/craftsmen. The scheme also aims to establish linkages of traditional arts/ crafts with the national and international market and ensure dignity of labour. The Ministry has also initiated the process to link the poor artisans/craftsmen to market networks through E-commerce portal. The labourers of the minority community eligible as per norms, are covered under the scheme.