

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3115
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2014
SCHEME FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme for skill development of minorities to enhance their employment and livelihood opportunities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take or has taken any steps to provide better marketing facilities to those artisans belonging to the minority communities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Ministry has launched a scheme for Skill Development of minorities namely "Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)" in 2013-14. The scheme ensures employment of minimum 75% trained candidates, and out of them 50% in organized sector. The scheme provides for minimum 33% seats for minority girls/women. During 2013-14 under the scheme, Rs. 17.00 Crore were released for skill training of 20,164 minority youths in the country.

Moreover, National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise under this Ministry, also provides grants to State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) for Vocational Training of minority youths wherein need based vocational training programmes are organized through Government owned/recognized training institutes in trades having potential for self/wage employment.

In addition, this Ministry proposes a new scheme for "Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)" for minorities based on the announcement made in the Budget Speech on 10th July, 2014. The USTTAD aims at building capacity and updating traditional skills of master craftsmen/artisans, training of minority youths in traditional arts/crafts, preservation of rich heritage of the traditional arts and crafts of minorities and establishing linkages of traditional skills with the market.

(c) & (d): In order to support minority artisans and craftsmen in marketing and sale of their products, NMDFC provides grants to State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) and NGOs for organizing exhibitions at State/District level @ Rs. 20,000/- per stall for A class cities, Rs. 16,000/- per stall for B class cities, Rs. 12,000/- per stall for C class cities and Rs. 10,000/- per stall for D class cities. Further, Travelling Allowance for two persons by train/ bus as per actual and Daily Allowance at the rate of Rs. 500/- per person for two persons representing each artisan/SHG is also given. In these exhibitions, the products of minority artisans and craftsmen are exhibited and sold. Such exhibitions also provide a platform for buyer-seller meet. In addition, Ministry facilitates and NMDFC sponsors participation of artisans/members of Self Help Groups in Surajkund International Craft Fair held in Haryana annually, for sale /display of their artifacts.