

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5223
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014
NAI ROSHNI SCHEME
Noor Smt. Mausam

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features and objectives of `Nai Roshni` Scheme for minority women;
- (b) the target groups under the scheme;
- (c) whether the scheme extends its benefits to non-minority women also;
- (d) if so, the percentage of non-minority women permitted to be beneficiaries of the scheme per project; and
- (e) whether the scheme permits any specific projects for Minority Concentrated Districts and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): Ministry started implementation of a scheme of "Nai Roshni" for empowerment and leadership development of minority women from 2012-13. The target groups under the scheme are women belonging to notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. The objective of the scheme is to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, Banks and other institutions at all levels.

(c) and (d): To strengthen the mosaic of plurality in the society and bring about solidarity and unity, the scheme permits a mix of women from non-minority communities not exceeding 25% of a project proposal.

(e): The scheme is implemented for minority women all over the country including the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs).