

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MINORITIES
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Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to assess the socioeconomic conditions of minority communities other than Muslims;
- (b) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and
- (c) the details of schemes/ programmes under implementation for the welfare of the minority communities along with funds allocated and utilised during the last three years, scheme-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA)

(a) No. Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ministry of Minority Affairs implements following welfare programmes/ schemes for minorities:

(i) Schemes for educational empowerment - Ministry implements Pre- matric, Post-matric, Merit-cum-Means based scholarships and Maulana Azad National Fellowship. Under these schemes, 30% seats are earmarked for girl students. In addition, Maulana Azad Education Foundation implements a scheme exclusively for scholarship to girls belonging to minority communities. Assistance for free coaching is also provided to students for competitive examinations. A new scheme 'Padho Pardes' has been launched for Interest subsidy on educational loans for minority students for their overseas studies. Further, to strengthen educational infrastructure, construction of school, additional classrooms and toilets are taken up under Multi-sectoral Development Programme.

(ii) Scheme for area development - Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) launched in 2008-09, is the flagship programme of the Ministry to address the development deficits by creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities in identified minority concentration areas.

(iii) Scheme for economic empowerment - National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) provides for concessional loans to minorities. Ministry has also launched "Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)" for placement linked skill development of minorities in the year 2013-14. The scheme envisages a minimum of 75% employment of trained minority youth and out of them 50% in organized sector.

(iv) Scheme for women empowerment - Ministry started "Nai Roshni", an exclusive Leadership Development Programme for Minority Women during 2012-13. The scheme aims to empower and instill confidence among minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, Banks and other institutions.

(v) Ministry has also launched a scheme with the name "Jiyo Parsi" during 2013-14 for containing population decline of Parsis in India. The scheme provides for financial assistance to Parsi married couples for medical treatment under standard medical protocols and also focuses on advocacy/ outreach programmes to generate awareness among Parsi population for lineage enhancement.

Scheme-wise details of budget allocation and expenditure incurred during the last three years on the programmes/ schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs is at Annexure.