

honorarium to the madrasas which introduce modern subjects *i.e.* Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that academic proficiency in classes I-XII is attainable for children studying in these institutions. Financial assistance is provided for Science/Maths kits, for setting up of Book bank and Science/ Computer lab also. However, the scheme is implemented through the State Governments.

Under SPQEM, funds allocated and released during the last five years are given below:

Year	Funds allocated (₹ in lakh)	Amnt. released (₹ in lakh)	No.of teachers	No.of Madrasas
2009-10	5000.00	4623.54	4962	1979
2010-11	10400.00	10147.00	11382	5045
2011-12	15000.00	13953.40	14412	5934
2012-13	19500.00	18249.26	23146	9906
2013-14	20000.00	18273.38	35157	14859

An amount of ₹ 375 crore for SPQEM and for the Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutes (IDMI) has been allocated to the Department of School Education for the Year 2014-15. However, no funds have yet been released under the scheme during the current year.

Representations given to NCM

2911. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of representations received from Ministers/MPs/Ex. MPs regarding exploitation and death of minority, particularly Muslim labourers, due to non-provision of safety equipments by private companies based at Rajkot, Gujarat by the National Commission for Minorities(NCM) during the last three months till date, representation-wise and company-wise;

(b) whether NCM has taken cognizance of the death of minority labourers and has inquired into the death of minority labourers and has taken action to file criminal FIRs against the companies and their proprietors;

(c) if so, the details thereof, company-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) NCM has informed that it received two representations *viz.* one from Shri Kamal Akhtar, Minister of State, Panchayati Raj, Government of Uttar Pradesh and the other from Shri Yashvir Singh, Ex-MP (Lok Sabha) *vide* their letters dated 15/07/14. The representations pertained to the death of Shri Attarul Sheikh, S/o Shri Munubhai Sheikh, R/o Village Mohanpur, Distt. Malda, West Bengal, who was working as labourer in M/s Bhavani Energy Solutions and Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Rajkot, Gujarat. In the representations, it had been mentioned that Shri Sheikh died due to fatal accident during work on 66 KV Dhasa-Songadh line on 21/04/2013.

(b) to (d) NCM is in the process of forwarding the matter to Secretary, Labour, Government of Gujarat and Director General Police, Gujarat for appropriate action and seeking their reports at the earliest in the matter.

Scholarship for minority communities students

2912. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated yearly for the Scholarships meant for minority students to study their M.A., M. Phil. and Ph.D. degrees abroad;

(b) how many students are to be benefitted every year and how much are they eligible to avail; and

(c) the policy of allocation, State-wise and whether such allocation is made according to their Minority population strength or other-wise?

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

(a) This Ministry has launched a new scheme of Padho Pardesh - interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies for Educational Empowerment of notified minority communities *viz* Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Zoroastrians (Parsis). The brief detail of the Scheme is given below:

Padho Pardesh - interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies- The objective of the scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability. The annual income of the family from all sources should not exceed ₹ 6.00 lakhs. This is a Central Sector Scheme to provide interest subsidy to the student belonging to the communities on the interest payable for the period of moratorium (*i.e.* course period+one year or six months after getting the job, whichever is earlier) for the