

(c) The Bill was finalized in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations as well as the Central Ministries concerned. The State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Tripura and the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli supported the proposal. No comments were received from the other State Governments/UT Administrations. The views from the All India Muslim Personal Law Board were also considered while drafting the Bill in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

National Madarsa Modernization Programme

737. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large section of minority community specially Muslims continuous to suffer from backwardness and poverty;
- (b) if so, whether Government is initiating a National Madarsa modernization Programme to spread modern and technical education among minority communities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and;
- (d) the steps being taken by Government for the welfare of minorities?

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

(b) and (c) The Department of School Education & Literacy has been running two schemes namely (i) the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) and (ii) Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Private Aided/Unaided Minority Institutes (IDMI) since 2008-09 for the educational upliftment of the Muslim Community.

Under SPQEM, the Ministry of HRD provides financial assistance to the Madarsas which introduces modern subjects *i.e.* science, mathematics, social studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that academic proficiency for classes I-XII is attainable for children studying in these institutions. Financial assistance is provided for Science/math Kits, for setting up of Book Bank, Science/Computer lab also. However, the scheme is implemented through the State Governments.

Under IDMI, financial assistance is provided to augment infrastructure in private aided/unaided minority schools/ institutions in order to enhance quality of education to minority children. However, under the scheme, only those madarsas which are imparting formal education and thereby following the prescribed syllabus of the State Education Board are covered under the scheme. The scheme of IDMI is also implemented through the State Government.

(d) The steps being taken by Government for the welfare of minorities are given below:

- (i). **Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP):-** This is an area development scheme which aims to improve the quality of life of the people and reduce imbalances in the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs). Identified development deficits are addressed through a district specific plan with provision of infrastructure creation for schools, sanitation, pucca housing, drinking water and electricity supply, besides beneficiary oriented schemes. The focus of this programme is on rural and semi-rural areas of the identified 90 Minority Concentration Districts. The scheme has been restructured for implementation during Twelfth Five Year Plan. Block has been made the unit of planning in place of district, the programme has been expanded to minority concentration towns/cities and cluster of minority concentration villages. The restructured programme covers 710 Minority Concentration Blocks (MCBs) and 66 Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) covering 196 districts of 26 States in the country. This would sharpen the focus on minority concentration areas.
- (ii). **Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme:-** Under this Scheme, scholarships are awarded to minority students up to class X, who have secured not less than 50% marks in the previous final examination and the annual income of their parents/ guardian from all sources does not exceed ₹ 1.00 lakh. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.
- (iii). **Post-matric Scholarship Scheme:-** Under this Scheme, scholarships are awarded to minority students from class XI onwards who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and the annual income of whose parents/ guardian from all sources does not exceed ₹ 2.00 lakh. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.
- (iv). **Maulana Azad National Fellowship For Minority Students:-** The objective of the Fellowship is to provide integrated five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to minority students to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D. The Fellowship covers all Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). 30% of the Scholarships are earmarked for the girl students.
- (v). **Merit-cum Means based Scholarship:-** The Merit-cum means based Scholarship Scheme provides financial assistance to the poor and meritorious minority students pursuing professional studies at graduate and post-graduate levels. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

- (vi). **Free Coaching and Allied Scheme:-** Under this scheme, candidates belonging to the minority community are provided financial assistance for coaching in Government and the private sector institutes for imparting coaching/training for Competitive Exams, Information Technology and other employment oriented courses. 30% of the scholarships are earmarked for girl students.
- (vii). **National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC):-** Government contributes equity capital to NMDFC for implementation of its schemes at concessional rates of interest which are viz. micro financing scheme, term loan, educational loans, skill development and Mahila Samridhi Yojana etc.
- (viii). **Grant-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF):-** Grants-in-aid are released to MAEF towards its Corpus Fund. MAEF provides Grant-in-aid to the minority institutions for infrastructure development and distribution of scholarship to the minority girl students studying in classes XI and XII. The expenditure on these schemes is met out of the interest earned on the Corpus Fund.
- (ix). **Computerization of records of State Wakf Boards:** In order to streamline record keeping of the Wakf lands, introduce transparency and social audit, computerize the various functions/processes of the Wakf Boards and develop a single web based centralized application, computerization of the records of the State Wakf Boards is carried out with the help of Central financial assistance. An amount of ₹ 16.18 crore has been release to the State Wakf Boards (SWB), Central Waqf council and National Informatics Center (NIC) till date.
- (x). **Nai Roshni:-** A scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women has been launched from 2012-13 with the objective to empower and instill confidence in women, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques to interact with Government systems, banks, and intermediaries at all levels so that they are emboldened to move out of the confines of home and assume leadership roles. The scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- (xi). **Seekho Aur Kamao:-** The Ministry has launched “Seekho Aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)” a new 100% Central Sector Scheme for Skill Development of minorities in September 2013. The scheme is implemented by private professional skill development organizations/companies. The scheme ensures employment of minimum 75% trained candidates, and out of them 50% in organized sector. The scheme reserves minimum 33% seats for minority women.

- (xii). **Jiyo Parsi:-** Jiyo Parsi is a new scheme for containing population decline of Parsis in India that has been launched during the current year 2013-14 with the objective to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions to stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India. Ministry extends financial assistance for outreach programme/advocacy and fertility treatment as per scheme guidelines. The scheme is implemented with assistance from Parzor Foundation with the help of Bombay Parsi Panchayet (BPP).
- (xiii). **“Nalanda Project”** is a Pilot Project for Development of Faculties of Minority Universities/ Minority Managed Degree Colleges (MMDCs) and higher educational institutions located in minority concentration areas, launched on 3rd March 2014 at Aligarh Muslim University, the Nodal Staff College of University Grants Commission.
- (xiv). **“Minority Cyber Gram”** was launched for Digital literacy of Minorities in collaboration with Digital Empowerment Foundation in PPP Mode at village Chandauli, District Alwar, Rajasthan on 19.02.2014. Total 2,600 villagers have been targeted under this pilot project.
- (xv). **Magazine “Minority Today”:-** To improve public interface, generate awareness and develop dialogue with target communities, Ministry has launched a quarterly trilingual (Hindi, English and Urdu) Magazine “Minority” Today in January, 2014.
- (xvi). Support for Minority students clearing Prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, State Public Service Commissions. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commissions, Staff Selection Commission, State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the State Governments and to increase the representation of the minorities in the Civil Services by giving direct financial support to candidates clearing Preliminary Examination. There is no State/UT wise allocation under this scheme.
- (xvii). Further Prime Minister’s New 15 Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities is an overarching programme which covers various schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments either by earmarking 15% of physical targets/financial outlays for the minorities or by specific monitoring of flow of benefits/funds to areas with substantial minority population. Presently 24 Schemes implemented by 11 Ministries/ departments including 7 Schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs, are covered under this programme.