

(b) whether it is also a fact that a new circular issued by the Ministry for pre- and post-matric scholarships for minority girl students makes it mandatory for the students to submit the income certificate of their parents/guardian issued by the competent authority instead of a self-declaration regarding the income?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements the following Scholarship Schemes throughout the country for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities namely Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi (Zoroastrian):

- (i) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme (for Class I to X);
- (ii) Post-matric Scholarship Scheme (for Class XI to Ph.D.);
- (iii) Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme (For Technical and Professional courses).

Under all these Schemes, there is a State/UT/Community-wise quota for grant of Fresh Scholarships every year, based on Census 2001 data. However, there is no loss to any State/UT/Community in terms of final allocation of Fresh Scholarships as the unutilized quota of one State/UT/Community is allotted to the remaining States/UTs/Communities in proportion of the number of their remaining applications. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Minority Affairs proposes to implement these schemes based on Census 2011 data from 2018-19 onwards.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Circular has been issued by this Ministry that an Income Certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the respective State/UT is required for verifying the submission of annual income made by the applicant for the aforesaid three Scholarship Schemes.

Withdrawal of Haj subsidy

454. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government shall release the text of the Committee Report on the Haj Policy for 2018-22 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the date on which the Haj subsidy will be withdrawn has been finalized;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has finalised how the subsidy funds will be re-allocated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) The text of the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the Ministry to review Haj policies of the Government for Haj 2013-17 and to suggest framework for new Haj policies for 2018-22 is available on the website of the Ministry (www.minorityaffairs.gov.in) and Haj Division (www.haj.gov.in).

(b) and (c) The subsidy given by the Government of India for making arrangements of air travel for Haj pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India is reflected in the budget of Ministry of Civil Aviation, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard. The Supreme Court, while dealing with the Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 28609 of 2011 vide its judgment dated 08.05.2012, inter alia observed that Haj subsidy is something that is best done away with and directed the central Government to progressively reduce the amount of subsidy so as to completely eliminate it. Accordingly, Haj subsidy has been gradually reduced since the year 2013.

(d) and (e) This Ministry has taken up with the Ministry of Finance to allocate additional funds for educational empowerment programmes for Minorities especially the Minority Girls.

Promotion of solar energy in Jharkhand

455. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to promote the generation of Solar Energy in Jharkhand, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of projects which have been proposed to be set up in the State during the present financial year, if so, the details thereof along with the places identified for such projects; and

(c) the action plan chalked out for this purpose and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) The Government has launched several schemes for promotion of solar energy in the country including the state of Jharkhand with various fiscal and promotional incentives such as capital and/or interest subsidy,