

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Data-set on socio-economic condition of Muslims**

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

(a) whether there is a representative data-set mapping on the socio-economic condition of Muslims across the country since 2014, owing to the absence of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data on the same, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, what means does Government have to map the socio-economic condition of Muslims in the country; and

(d) by when Government proposes to appoint a commission for the same?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI):
(a) to (d): Since 2014, no representative data-set mapping the socio-economic condition of Muslims across the country has been taken up by the Government. However, on the recommendation of Sachar Committee for creation of a National Data Bank (NDB) to maintain relevant socio-economic data for socio-religious categories (SRCs), an NDB has been created in the form of a webpage on the website of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The official data pertaining to various SRCs obtained from various data sources/programme Ministries/Departments are uploaded on the webpage www.mospi.gov.in/national-data-bank. So far, around 200 tables on various socio-economic aspects of SRCs, such as housing, labour, employment, education, credit flows, health, etc., have been uploaded on the NDB.

Further, the Ministry of Minority Affairs implements an area development programme called Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), earlier known as Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), to address the developmental deficits by creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities in Minority Concentration Areas, which have been identified as relatively backward on the basis of census data.

With a view to enhance opportunities for education, ensure an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment through existing and new schemes; enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented the following schemes/initiatives for the welfare of the six notified minority communities namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis:—

- (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 Professional and Technical Courses.
- (iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship – For M.Phil. and Ph.D
- (v) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme (Naya Savera) – For Competitive Examination of Professional Courses and Government Jobs.
- (vi) “Padho Pardesh”– Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies.
- (vii) Nai Udaan – Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commission (PSC), etc.
- (viii) Hamari Dharohar – A scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority communities under the overall concept of Indian Culture.
- (ix) Jiyo Parsi – Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community.
- (x) Nai Roshni–Leadership Development of Minority Women.
- (xi) Skill Development Initiatives – Seekho Aur Kamao.
- (xii) Nai Manzil – A scheme for formal school education and skilling of school dropouts.
- (xiii) USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development).
- (xiv) Grants-in-Aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) for implementation of education and skill related schemes:–
 - ◆ Grants-in-Aid to NGOs/Trust/Society.
 - ◆ Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to the Minorities.
 - ◆ Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for providing short-term job oriented skill development courses to youths belonging to minority communities.
 - ◆ Bridge Course for Madarsa students and school dropouts by Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi under Nai Manzil scheme (implemented through MAEF).
 - ◆ Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative.

- (xv) Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for providing concessional loans to minorities for self-employment and income generating ventures.

Details of the above schemes at serial No. (i) to (xiii), including the PMJVK, are available on the website of this Ministry (www.minorityaffairs.gov.in), the one at serial no. (xiv) are available on the website of MAEF (www.maef.nic.in) and at serial no. (xv) are available on the website of NMDFC (www.nmdfc.org).

Single tax base structure under GST

*218. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to adopt a single tax base structure of nine per cent for essential commodities and products under the GST regime;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the tax bases proposed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to Ministry of Finance for medicinal, educational and food and hygiene products;
- (c) whether Government has made any efforts to bring essential goods and commodities under lowest tax base structure of 5 per cent; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal relating to tax base has been made by the Commerce and Industry Ministry to Ministry of Finance for medicinal, educational, food and hygiene products.

(c) and (d) The GST rates are prescribed on the recommendation of the GST Council. The essential and mass consumption goods and commodities like Fruits and Vegetables, Cereals (like Wheat, Rice, Maize, etc.), Pulses, Oilseeds and edible oils, Sugar Cattle feed, Coal, Fertilizers, Cotton, Jute, Yarn, Fabrics, Textiles, Drugs etc. are either exempt or levied at the lowest rate of 5%. Details of the GST rates of major essential goods and commodities are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of GST rates of major essential goods and commodities

Description of Goods	GST Rate
Seeds of food crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables, Seeds of cattle fodder	Nil