

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken by Government to construct Educational Institutions Skill Development Centres, Community Centres and Hospitals etc. on Waqf properties?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI):
(a) to (b) As per provision of the Waqf Act, 1995 as amended, the general superintendence of all Auqaf in a State is vested in the State Waqf Board (SWB) established by the State/UT Government. The SWB exercises its power under this Act to ensure that Auqaf under its superintendence are properly maintained, controlled and administered. The Waqf Properties Lease Rules 2014 framed under section 56 of the Act by the Central Government empower the SWB to give waqf properties on lease of upto 30 years for establishing or running educational institutions like schools, colleges, universities as well as hospitals, dispensaries and so on. Moreover, the Central Government implements a scheme "Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana" through Central Waqf Council (CWC). Under this scheme, interest free loan are provided to SWBs/Waqf Institutions in the country for construction of economically viable buildings on waqf land such as commercial complex, marriage halls, hospitals, cold storage etc. Recently, the Government has approved restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for its implementation during remaining period of Fourteenth Finance Commission. The programme with new features is being implemented as "Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) now expanded all over the country in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs). The focus of the Karayakram is on creation of assets for education, health and skill with at least 80% of the resources of which, minimum 33-40% will be for facilitations that benefits women/girls. The Karayakram aims to address the development deficits in MCAs by creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities for improving the quality of life of the people. Under PMJVK, there is provision for construction of projects on Waqf land provided by respective authority/Board free of any lease amount/nominal amount for a particular period on lease basis. Further, National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd. (NAWADCO) has also been made an implementing agency alongwith CPSEs and other agencies under the scheme.

Empowerment of youth belonging to minority communities

1571. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken for empowering the youth belonging to minority communities in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a steep decline in disbursal of scholarship for the students belonging to minority communities since 2014;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this decline; and

(d) what initiatives have been taken to ensure that the youth belonging to minority communities do not lag behind educationally?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI):

(a) The Government has notified six communities as minorities in the country under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. These communities are Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian (Parsis). It has been the endeavour of the Government to take necessary steps for empowerment of minorities, in general, and improve their quality of life across the country by way of implementing several schemes/initiatives, meant for their welfare, and by taking necessary measures therefor. These are being done by way of their educational empowerment, skill development, economic empowerment, preservation of traditional skills, infrastructural development in minority concentration area, etc.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) is implementing the following schemes for educational empowerment of notified minorities:-

- (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 at under graduate and post graduate levels);
- (iv) Naya Savera-Free Coaching and Allied Schemes (for Competitive Examinations of Professional Courses and Government jobs);
- (v) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (for M.Phil&Ph.D);
- (vi) Nai Udaan - Support for Minorities clearing Prelims examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and State Public Service Commissions (SPSCs);
- (vii) Padho Pardesh-Interest Subsidy on Education Loans for overseas studies for Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. Level;
- (viii) Nai Manzil (An Integrated Education and Livelihood Initiative Communities); and Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for Minorities.
- (ix) Begam Hajrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Minority Girls - Implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) (for Class IX to XII).

(b) to (d) From the year 2015-16, all the three scholarship schemes *viz.* Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Schemes are being implemented through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and the Scholarships are being disbursed under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. As such, there was a decline in the number of scholarships disbursed during 2016-17, mainly due to some technical glitches on NSP. However, the number has increased considerably during 2017-18 and is likely to increase further in 2018-19 due to a robust portal and increase in number of renewal applicants. Nevertheless, the Ministry has taken various initiatives to give wide publicity of these schemes through print advertisements and broadcast/telecast of audio/video spots through All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan/Private TV Channels, FM Channels, Digital Cinema and various other means of outdoor publicity, including publicity made through 'Progress Panchayat' to make the target group aware of these schemes.

Popularisation of solar energy in villages

1572. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any scheme for popularization of solar energy in villages and far flung areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how would common people get benefits from such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH): (a) to (c) The Off-grid and Decentralised Solar PV Applications Programme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) aims at promoting and developing solar energy in Off-grid areas including rural and remote areas of the country.

The Phase-III of Off-grid and Decentralised Solar PV applications Programme, which has been approved by the Government on 6 June, 2018 covers installation of (i) 3,00,000 solar street lights; (ii) solar power plants of individual size up to 25 kWp and total aggregated capacity of 100 MWp for providing electricity to schools, hostels, panchayats, police stations and other public service institutions; and (iii) distribution of 25,00,000 solar study lamps in North Eastern States and LWE affected districts.

The common people get benefitted by facilities created under the scheme like solar street lights and solar power plants at public institution.