

**Educational advancement of religious minorities in Tamil Nadu**

1056. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in the last three years and current year to ensure an increase in educational and employment opportunities for religious minorities in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government provides any scholarship for minority students till the university level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements fifteen Schemes throughout the country (including Tamil Nadu), for educational and economic empowerment of six Centrally notified minority communities namely Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi (Zoroastrians). The schemes are as under:—

- (i) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme (for students of Class I to X);
- (ii) Post-matric Scholarship Scheme (for students of Class XI to Ph.D.);
- (iii) Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme (For students of Professional and Technical courses at Under Graduate and Post Graduate level);
- (iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) (for M.Phil & Ph.D.);
- (v) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme (for Competitive Examinations of Professional Courses and Government jobs);
- (vi) Support for Minorities (for clearing prelims exam conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and State Public Service Commissions (SPSCs));
- (vii) Padho Pardesh (for overseas studies at Masters, M.Phil, and Ph.D. Level);
- (viii) Nai Manzil - A scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from Minority communities. Provide education bridge program to eligible minority youth, to obtain open schooling certification of class 8th / 10th. Impart high quality skill training including soft skills ' leading to productive employment. Provide job placement support to assist sustainable employment to those students who opt to the labour market;

- (ix) Begam Hajrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girls belonging to Minorities- Implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) (for minority girls studying in Class IXth to XIIth Standard).
- (x) Seekho aur Kamao -Seekho aur Kamao is a placement linked skill development scheme that aims at upgrading the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them a suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment.
- (xi) USTTAD - The scheme "Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD)" aims at capacity building and updating the traditional skills of master craftsmen/artisans; documentation of identified traditional arts/crafts of minorities; set standards for traditional skills; training of minority youths in various identified traditional arts/crafts, through master craftsmen; and develop national and international market linkages. Hunar Haat is also being organised under this Scheme from 2016-17 to further promote traditional crafts/arts, employment generation and strengthen their market linkages.
- (xii) Nai Roshni - The scheme for leadership development of Minority Women. Under this scheme, a new component of economic . empowerment is implemented for.
- (xiii) Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for Minorities - A scheme to provide short-term job oriented skill development courses to youths belonging to the 06 centrally notified minority communities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains {implemented through Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)}.
- (xiv) 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).
- (xv) Concession credit through National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

The details of all these schemes are available on the website of this Ministry i.e. [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in) / [www.maef.nic.in](http://www.maef.nic.in) / [www.nmdfc.org](http://www.nmdfc.org).