

USTTAD scheme

1057. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any action to ensure implementation of the USTTAD scheme to upgrade skills and training in traditional arts and crafts for development of minorities;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and utilised in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether Government has set up any mechanism to monitor the utilisation of these funds by the State Governments and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme has been launched on 14th May, 2015 to preserve the rich, heritage of traditional arts/crafts of minorities. The scheme 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. Scheme is implemented through selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) in the States on the basis of their proposals. So far, no PIAs have been empanelled from Tamilnadu in this scheme.

(c) The scheme's guidelines provide for monitoring and inspection of the project. State Government/MAEF Inspector and officials of the Ministry are also assigned to monitor/inspect the projects from time to time.

Insufficient budget provisions for minorities

1058. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 0.49 percent of the total 2016-17 Budget had been earmarked for the development of minorities despite the fact that religious minorities constitute 21 per cent of total population as per census 2011; and

(b) whether the total expenditure reported for minorities by Centre through 15 point programme and MsDP(Multi-Sectoral Development Programme) has shown a declining trend since 2012-13?