

- Gharib Nawaz Employment 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.
- Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative.

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

Further, under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities which is an overarching programme, covering various schemes/initiatives of the participating Ministries/Departments and is implemented throughout the country. All the schemes/initiatives included in the programme are implemented by the participating Ministries /Departments, either exclusively for or by earmarking of overall physical /financial targets for minorities. The programme aims to promote education as well as social welfare of minorities by ensuring equitable share 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 details of the ongoing schemes/programmes are also available on the website of this Ministry www.minorityaffairs.gov.in; www.maef.nic.in and www.nmdfc.org.

Fatal road accidents on the National Highways

1683. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in fatal road accidents on the National Highways, if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to install CCTV cameras to monitor rash driving and to regulate speed, install Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) system on National Highways, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) As per data/information from the Police Department of all State/UTs, the total number of fatal road accidents on all type of roads including National Highways in the country during the calendar year 2016 and 2017 are as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Total No. of fatal road accidents
1.	2016	136071
2.	2017	134796

(b) NHAI is implementing ATMS (Advance Traffic Management System) on EPE (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) with installation of CCTV cameras and control systems to monitor speed violations, lane discipline etc.

Educational qualification for driving licence

1684. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is likely to waive off mandatory educational qualification for truckers and bus drivers for seeking a driving licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government would amend this rule and issue a draft notification shortly for comments from stakeholders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed to waive off mandatory educational qualification required for obtaining a driving licence for truckers and bus drivers. The Ministry has notified a draft notification *vide* GSR 431 (E) dated 18.06.2019 for omission of Rule 8 (*i.e.* Minimum Educational Qualification for driving transport vehicles) in the Central Motor Vehicles Rule, 1989.

Shortage of truck drivers

1685. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of 22 lakh drivers in the transport and logistics sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to provide any relaxation to the drivers of medium and heavy transport vehicles; and