

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2196**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021**

**HIGHER EDUCATION AMONGST MINORITIES**

**2196: SHRI BINOY VISWAM**

Will the Minister of Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total percentage of students belonging to minority communities currently enrolled in public higher educational institutes in the country;
- (b) whether the Ministry has identified key problem areas in its own programmes that must be addressed to improve the access to higher education amongst minorities;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to improve access to higher education; and
- (d) whether the Ministry plans on extending the number of educational schemes available to minorities for higher education, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

(a): As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2018-19 total percentage of minority students enrolled in Higher Education Institutions is 7.55%.

(b) to (d): In order to increase the enrolment of students including notified minority communities in higher educational institutions, various measures have been taken by Government which includes issuing of new UGC regulation for Open and Distance

Learning that allows entry of reputed institutions to offer education on the distance mode. Using of ICT technology- SWAYAM portal to reach out of people and allow them to secure good quality education. Encouraging opening of institutions by State Governments through the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) which aims to achieve equity, access and excellence in higher education. The scheme supports components such as upgrading autonomous colleges to universities, clustering colleges to establish a university, setting up of new professional colleges in un-served and underserved areas as well as providing infrastructure grants to universities and colleges to scale up capacity. More scholarship programmes to supplement the cost of education. Moreover, Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) has been established under the Companies Act, 2013 to leverage funds from market to finance improvement in infrastructure in top institutions of education.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing various schemes for the educational empowerment of students belonging to six notified minority communities i.e. Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Zoroastrian (Parsi) in all States across the country. Since 2014-15 more than 4 crore students have been benefitted from the various educational schemes being implemented by the Ministry. The brief details of the schemes is given as under:

(i) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme- The scholarship is provided to minority students studying in class I to X in Government/ recognized Private schools. To be eligible, students should not have annual parental/guardian's income more than Rs.1.00 lakh and he/she should have secured minimum 50% marks in previous class. Minimum 30% scholarships are earmarked for girls.

(ii) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme- The scholarship is provided to minority students studying in Class XI to Ph.D level in Government/ recognized Private schools/Colleges/Institutes. To be eligible, students should not have annual parental/guardian's income more than Rs.2.00 lakh and he/she should have secured minimum 50% marks in previous class. Minimum 30% scholarships are earmarked for girls.

(iii) Merit-cum-Mean based Scholarship Scheme - The scholarship is awarded for pursuing professional and technical courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels, in institutions recognized by the appropriate authority. 85 institutes for professional and technical courses have been listed in the scheme; for which full course fee is reimbursed. To be eligible, students should not have annual parental/guardian's income more than Rs.2.50 lakh and he/she should have secured minimum 50% marks in previous class. Minimum 30% scholarships are earmarked for girls.

(iv) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme- The Fellowships are awarded to research students pursuing regular and full time M. Phil and Ph.D courses. The Scheme covers all Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 2(f) and section 3 of the UGC Act and is implemented through UGC. To be eligible, students should not have annual parental/guardian's income more than Rs.6.00 lakh. Under the scheme, 30% fellowships are earmarked for girl students.

(v) Padho Pardesh - Scheme of Interest Subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies- Under the scheme, the interest subsidy is awarded to students on the interest payable for the period of moratorium for the Education Loans taken for overseas studies to pursue approved courses of studies abroad at Masters, M.Phil or Ph.D levels. The scheme is implemented through the Canara Bank. To be eligible, students should not have annual parental/guardian's income more than Rs.6.00 lakh. 35% scholarships are earmarked for girls.

(vi) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship- Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) under M/o Minority Affairs also implements Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship scheme for meritorious minority girls studying in classes 9th to 12th .

(vii) Free Coaching & Allied scheme (Naya Savera): The scheme aims to provide free coaching to students/candidates belonging to notified minority communities and whose total annual family income is less than Rs.6 lakhs for qualifying in entrance examinations of technical/professional courses and competitive Examinations. During last six years 64,244 students have been provided free coaching.

Further, Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) of Ministry of Minority Affairs is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which is implemented in 1300 identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) of the country with the objective to develop socio-economic assets and basic amenities in these areas. The MCAs have been identified on the basis of (a) Concentration of minority population and (b) backwardness in terms of identified parameters as compared to national average. The MCAs identified include 870 Minority Concentration Blocks, 321 Minority Concentration Towns and 109 Minority Concentration Districts Headquarters. The thrust of the PMJVK scheme is to allocate at least 80% of the resources to education, health and skill development sectors of which at least 33-40% is allocated for women centric projects. During 2014-15 to 2020-21, various projects have been approved in the education sector which include 165- Residential Schools, 32- Degree Colleges, 646- Student Hostels, 6- Navodayas Vidyalayas, 95- ITIs, 13- Polytechnics, 15- Skill Centres, 22,908- Additional Classrooms (ACR), 356- ACR blocks, 5,361- Sanitation Projects in Schools, 9,999- Smart Classes and Teaching Aids, etc. Even though projects under the PMJVK scheme are implemented in MCAs, the assets created such as Schools, Colleges, hospitals, skill centres etc. are utilized by all the people living in the catchment area.

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