

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs

The Ministry of Minority Affairs was created on 29th January, 2006 to ensure a focused approach to the issues related to the minorities and to play a pivotal role in overall policy, planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the regulatory and development programmes for the benefit of the minority communities. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in respect of programmes, schemes and initiatives for minorities

Ques.1. When was the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities revised and what is new about it?

Ans. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. It is a comprehensive programme of affirmative action. It envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas for ensuring that the benefits of the schemes included in the programme flow equitably to the minorities. It provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for the minorities.

Ques.2. What are the schemes included in the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme which are considered amenable to earmarking?

Ans. The following nine schemes in the new programme are considered amenable to earmarking, as under:

- (i) Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) [Earlier: SGSY/Aajeevika] implemented by Department of Rural Development;
- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) [Earlier: Indira Awaas Yojana] implemented by Department of Rural Development;
- (iii) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) [Earlier: SJSRY/NULM] implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs;

- (iv) Bank credit under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) implemented by Department of Financial Services;
- (v) *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan implemented by Department of School Education and Literacy;
- (vi) *Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme providing services through Anganwadi Centres implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development;
- (vii) *Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Centres of Excellence implemented by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship;
- (viii) ^POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development;
- (ix) ^Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana implemented by Department of Financial Services; and
- (x) ^National Health Mission implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

*Scheme has reached saturation.

^New schemes which have been offered for inclusion under PM's New 15-PP

Qus. 3. What are the schemes of the Ministry for the development of the minority communities?

Ans. The schemes are:-

(A) Educational Empowerment

- (i) Scholarship Schemes:-
 - (a) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme.
 - (b) Post- Matric Scholarship Scheme.
 - (c) Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme.
- (ii) Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme.
- (iii) Naya Savera - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates / students belonging to Minority Communities.
- (iv) Padho Pardesh – Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for the Student belonging to Minority Communities.

- (v) Nai Udaan – Support for Minority Students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, State Public Service Commissions (PSCs) and Staff Selection Commission.

(B) Economic Empowerment:

- (i) Skill Development:
 - (a) Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn).
 - (b) UATTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development).
 - (c) Nai Manzil - A scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from Minority Communities.
- (ii) Concessional credit through National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

(C) Infrastructure Development:

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK).

(D) Special Needs:

- (i) Nai Roshni – The scheme for leadership development of Minority Women.
- (ii) Hamari Dharohar – A scheme to preserve rich heritage of minority communities of India under the overall concept of Indian culture.
- (iii) Jiyo Parsi – Scheme for Containing Population Decline of Parsis in India.
- (iv) Waqf Management -
 - (a) Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati- Scheme (Scheme of Computerization of Records and Strengthening of State Waqf Boards)
 - (b) Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (Scheme for Grants-in-Aid to Waqf – Development of Urban Waqf Properties)
- (v) Research/ Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Schemes Including Publicity
- (vi) Haj Management

(E) Support to institutions:

- (i) Corpus Fund to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)
- (ii) Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)

- (iii) Grants-in-Aid Scheme to State Channelising Agencies of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

Ques. 4. What are the Scholarship Schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs for educational empowerment of minority communities?

Ans. This Ministry implements three scholarship schemes for the educational empowerment of minority students studying in class – I to Post Graduation, including technical and professional courses at under graduate and post graduate level.

These schemes are:

- (i) Pre-matric scholarships for class – I to class X;
- (ii) Post-matric scholarships from class – XI to Post Graduation including technical courses at XI and XII level recognized by NCVT; and
- (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels.

These scholarships are awarded to students who fulfil certain requirements of the scheme including income criterion as stipulated under scheme guidelines.

Ques. 5. When are the students expected to apply for Scholarship Schemes?

Ans. These are Central Sector Schemes implemented through States/UTs. The Ministry of Minority Affairs as well as the States/UTs release advertisements around the last week of May or the first week of June of every year inviting application from students who are eligible to apply.

Students should watch out for the advertisements in the local papers of the state/UT and apply to the state/UT concerned in the prescribed format. You may also see the website of this Ministry i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. Please also refer to the FAQs related to Pre-Matric scholarship, Post-Matric scholarship and Merit-cum-Means based scholarship Schemes on this website for detailed advisory.

Ques.6. Is there any earmarking for female candidates/students under Scholarship Schemes?

Ans: In all the Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry, 30% of scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

Ques.7: What are the courses for which free Coaching is provided for?

Ans: Free Coaching is provided by the Coaching Institutes selected under this Scheme for the following as approved by the Ministry of Minority Affairs:-

- a) Competitive examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commissions, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the various recruitment agencies like Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs.), Banking Services Recruitment Boards etc for Group A, B and C posts.
- b) Officers' Grade examinations conducted by Banks, Insurance Companies and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);
- c) Entrance Examinations for admission in Engineering/Medical courses, Professional courses like CAT, CLAT, MBA, etc., and any other such disciplines as Ministry may decide from time to time.

30% of the numbers sanctioned for Free Coaching shall be earmarked for girl students/ candidates. In case, the sufficient number of eligible female candidate/ students are not available the remaining slots will be filled by male students/ candidates with prior permission/ intimation to the Ministry.

Ques. 8. What are MCDs, MCBs and MCTs and how have they been identified?

Ans. MCDs stand for Minority Concentration Districts, MCBs stand for Minority Concentration Blocks and MCTs stand for Minority Concentration Towns. These areas have been identified on the basis of population of minority communities and backwardness parameters.

Ques. 9. Is there any scheme for development of Minority Concentration Areas?

Ans. Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been launched/ implemented in the identified Minority Concentration Areas for their development. The scheme has been restructured for implementation during remaining period of 14th Finance Commission i.e. upto 2019-20 as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK).

Ques. 10. What are the main objectives of the Multi- sectoral Development Programme for Minority Concentration Areas?

Ans. Minority Concentration Areas have been identified on the basis of their relative backwardness in terms of socio-economic and basic amenities parameters. The programme has, therefore, been designed to address the 'development deficits' in these areas, mainly in the sector of education, health, skill development, housing, sanitation, water & electricity etc.

Ques. 11. What are the institutions under the purview of the Ministry?

Ans. They are:-

- (i) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), Delhi.
- (ii) Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), New Delhi.
- (iii) Central Waqf Council (CWC), New Delhi.
- (iv) National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi
- (v) Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, New Delhi.
- (vi) Durgah Khwaja Ajmer Saheb, Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- (vii) National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd. (NAWADCO), New Delhi.

Ques. 12. What are the main activities of NMDFC?

Ans. The main activities of NMDFC are:-

- (i) Provision of Term Loans for income generating activities at concessional rate of interest, through the State Channelizing Agencies.
- (ii) Providing Micro Finance to the poorest of poor among minorities through SCAs/NGOs & Network of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- (iii) Providing Educational Loans to persons belonging to minorities.
- (iv) Organizing Entrepreneurship & Vocational training to persons belonging to targeted minority communities with a view to help them in wage/self employment.
- (v) Marketing Assistance to Artisans and Craft persons for sale/display of their products.

Ques.13. What is the objective and the main activities of MAEF?

Ans. Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is working under the aegis of the

Ministry of Minority Affairs to promote education amongst educationally backward sections of the Society. The Government of India has provided Corpus Fund of Rs. 1,362 crore so far to MAEF from which it earns interest to run its schemes.

The Foundation implemented the following two schemes during 2017-18 for the educational empowerment of minorities throughout the country, namely, (i) Grants-in-Aid to Non-Governmental Organisations, and (ii) Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship for Meritorious Girl Students. From 2018-19 onwards, the Scholarship Scheme is being subsumed into the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme of the Ministry.

Besides, it launched two new schemes namely- (i) Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for Minorities, and (ii) Swachh Vidyalaya during 2017-18.

Ques.14. Why was the Sachar Committee constituted and when did it submit its report?

Ans. As there was lack of authentic information about the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India, a High Level Committee was constituted on 9th March, 2005 under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajinder Sachar to prepare a comprehensive report on this subject. The High Level Committee (popularly known as the Sachar Committee) submitted its report on 17th November, 2006.

Ques. 15. What has the Central Government decided on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and what are the major decisions?

Ans. The Central Government has decided to implement the recommendations of the Sachar Committee covering affirmative action, special area development, education, credit, skill development, social inclusion, etc.

Ques.16. What are the initiatives taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Sachar Committee in respect of affirmative action?

Ans. To set up an Equal Opportunity Commission for looking into the grievances of deprived groups; to develop an appropriate diversity index in education, work places and living spaces, to set up a National Data Bank and an

autonomous Assessment & Monitoring Authority to assess the socio-economic development of socio-religious communities.

Ques. 17. What are the initiatives taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Sachar Committees in respect of special area development?

Ans. To implement a multi-sectoral development programme to provide basic amenities, and improve opportunities for employment, in selected minority concentration districts and plan out a strategy for improving civic amenities and economic opportunities in minority concentration towns.

Ques.18. What are the initiatives taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Sachar Committee in respect of improvement of education for minorities?

Ans.

- (i) To implement the following scholarship and coaching schemes:
- A merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for pursuing technical & professional courses in under-graduate and post-graduate levels operationalised.
 - A pre-matric scholarship scheme from class I to X.
 - A post-matric scholarship scheme from class XI upto P.hD.
 - A free coaching & allied scheme.

They have all been approved and implementation has started that:

- (ii) Priority is given for opening of residential Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools in areas with a substantial Muslim population.
- (iii) To take up a special literacy drive in districts with a substantial Muslim population to improve the overall literacy rate and especially, the literacy rate of Muslim women.
- (iv) To establish BITEs to impart pre-service and in service training to primary, upper primary and secondary level teachers in 77 blocks with a high primary concentration of Muslim population.

Ques.19. What are the initiatives taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Sachar Committee in respect of improving credit to minorities?

Ans.

- (i) All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population. A total of 21,368 branches of Public Sector Banks have been opened in areas with substantial minority population up to 2016-17.
- (ii) The PSL disbursement for minorities has steadily increased from 10.6% in 2007-08 to 14.94% as on 31.12.2017. An amount of Rs. 3,05,127.17 crore has been given as loan to minority communities under PSL (total outstanding as on 30.09.2017).
- (iii) After detailed exercise, the proposal of the Ministry to increase the authorized share capital of NMDFC from Rs. 1,500 crore to Rs. 3,000 crore has been approved by the Cabinet. The Cabinet has also approved the restructuring of NMDFC on the lines proposed by this Ministry. A High-Level Committee has been set-up to oversee restructuring of NMDFC.
- (iv) Under the Term Loan and Micro Finance schemes of NMDFC, Rs. 3,997.23 crore disbursed to 12.85 lakh beneficiaries (as on 31.01.2018).

Ques. 20. What are the initiatives taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Sachar Committee in respect of social inclusion?

- Ans.
- (i) Thirteen universities have been provided Rs.40 lakh each for starting centres for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
 - (ii) A training module has been developed by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, for sensitization of government officials. The module has been sent to all the Central/State Training Institutes for implementation. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) has prepared a module for sensitization of organised civil services and it has been incorporated in their training programmes.
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