

I. MEASURES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES IN INDIA

1. India is a multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-racial country, interwoven into an innate unity by the common thread of national integration and communal harmony.
2. The social pluralism of India is fortified by the unique Constitutional concept of secularism, and constitutionally mandated protection and promotion of rights of all minority communities. The Indian Constitution enshrines secularism in its Preamble. It guarantees fundamental rights to all its minorities. Independent institutions, including Judiciary, Human Rights Commission, and Minorities Commission, protect and promote these rights.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

3. The **Preamble** to the Constitution declares the State to be 'Secular' and all citizens of India are to be secured 'liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and 'equality of status and of opportunity.'

4. Indian Constitution is unique as it provides for constitutionally mandated positive discrimination/ affirmative action for minorities. **Part III of the Constitution, which deals with the Fundamental Rights** provides for:

Article 14: people's right to 'equality before the law' and 'equal protection of the laws'.

Article 15(1) & 15(2): prohibition of discrimination against citizens on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Article 16(1) & 16(2): citizens' right to 'equality of opportunity' in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State – and prohibition in this regard of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Article 25(1): people's freedom of conscience and right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion – subject to public order, morality and other Fundamental Rights.

Article 26: right of 'every religious denomination or any section thereof – subject to public order, morality and health – to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes, 'manage its own affairs in matters of religion', and own and acquire movable immovable property and administer it 'in accordance with law.

Article 27: prohibition against compelling any person to pay taxes for promotion of any particular religion.

Article 28: people's 'freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in educational institutions' wholly maintained, recognized, or aided by the State

Article 29 (2): restriction on denial of admission to any citizen, to any educational institution maintained or aided by the State, 'on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them'.

Article 30(1): right of all Religious and Linguistic Minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Article 30(2): freedom of Minority-managed educational institutions from discrimination in the matter of receiving aid from the State.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

5. In addition to these safeguards provided in the Constitution and the laws in force, a National Commission for Minorities has been established as a statutory body under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. As per Section 9(1) of the Act, the Commission is required to perform functions that, *inter alia*, include, monitoring of the working of the safeguards for minorities provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures; making recommendations for effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of minorities by the Central Government or the State Governments; looking into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of minorities and taking up such matters with the appropriate authorities, etc.

NATIONAL AND STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

6. The NHRC, India is a statutory, autonomous body constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, and is mandated, *inter alia*, to enquire suo-motu or on a petition presented to it regarding violations of human rights, review the safeguards provided under the Constitution and domestic laws, study international human rights treaties, promote research in the field of human rights, spread human rights literacy among various sections of society, and synergise the efforts of NGOs and institutions working in the field of human rights. It also has the authority to grant interim relief, recommend payment of compensation or damages and the initiation of proceedings for prosecution or disciplinary action against errant public officials.

7. As per Section 3(3) of the Protection of Human Rights Act (Amendment), 2019, the **Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities**, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, National Commission for Backward Classes and Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities shall be deemed to be Members of the Commission for the purpose of discharge of function specified in clauses (b) to (j) of Section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and the programmes and projects taken up in the discharge of these functions. These functions are assigned to the Statutory Full Commission which includes Chairpersons of the National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and National Commission for Women. Section 21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 provides for constitution of State Human Rights Commissions in the States as well.

8. NHRC remains committed to not only the protection and promotion of human rights in the society but also the prevention of human rights violations of the people, especially the marginalized sections of society. Together with all stakeholders, the Commission is playing a pro-active role in mainstreaming a culture of human rights in the society.

SCHEMES/ INITIATIVES

9. India has undertaken numerous initiatives to empower all sections of society without any discrimination. Particular focus has been given to the rights of women; education of children; skill development; and protect and promote culture, especially for minority communities.

10. Some of the initiatives being implemented since 2014 include:

A. EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

11. Several Schemes for coaching, studies abroad, Government Jobs etc have been implemented. Between 2014-2018, over 300 thousand students from minority communities have benefitted from the aforementioned schemes relating to educational empowerment.
12. **“Naya Savera” (New Dawn) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme** to enhance skills and knowledge of students and candidates for employment through competitive examination and admission in technical and professional courses.
13. **“Padho Pardes” Scheme (Study Abroad Scheme)** for interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies in technical and professional courses.
14. **“Nai Udaan”** to support students clearing Preliminary Examination conducted by the Central Government and State Governments such as those conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Service Commission, etc.
15. **“Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship” for Meritorious Girls**, implemented by Maulana Azad Educational Foundation (MAEF).
16. Between 2014-2018, over 300 thousand students from minority communities have benefitted from the aforementioned schemes relating to educational empowerment.
17. **Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme** for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and PhD. Between 2014-2019, 31.8 million students from minority communities have received scholarships, of which, more than 50% constitute girls.
18. **Bridge Course for madrasa students & school dropouts** by Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi under Nai Manzil Scheme.

B. SUPPORT TO MINORITY INSTITUTIONS

19. Government of India has granted **Grants-in-Aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF)** for implementation of education and skill related schemes.
20. **Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)** for providing loans at concessional interest rates to minorities for self-employment and income generating activities. INR 19.79 billion amount concessional loans were disbursed to minority communities for education and employment in 2017-18.

C. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

21. Government is implementing **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**, a multi-sectoral development programme in identified Minority Concentration Blocks, Minority Concentration Towns, Minority Concentration District Headquarters & Cluster Villages for Infrastructural Development.

Between 2014 and 2018, 340 Multi-purpose Community Centres, 67 Gurukul-type Residential Schools, 436 Market Sheds for farmers and artisans, 11 Degree Colleges, 163 Girls Hostel, 53 ITIs and 925 School Buildings have been constructed by the Government in the minority dominated areas. During the current financial year, i.e. 2019-20, INR 14.70 billion has been allocated for this scheme.

D. SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

22. **‘Nai Manzil’ Scheme** for formal school education and skilling of school dropouts;

23. **'Seekho aur Kamao'** - a placement linked skill development scheme for minorities, aims at upgrading skills of minority youth in various model/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential which can earn them a suitable employment or make them skilled to go for self-employment.

24. **'Garib Nawaz Skill Development' Training for Minorities** is a scheme to provide short-term job oriented skill development courses to youths belonging to the six centrally notified minority communities. Between 2014 and 2018, 5,23,890 people from minority communities have benefitted from Government's employment-oriented skill development programme.

25. **USTTAD**, i.e. **Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development**. Hunar Haat is also being organized under the Scheme from 2016-17 to further promote traditional crafts/arts, employment generation and strengthen their market linkages. Since its inception, 21 **Hunar Haat** were organized for providing employment and employment opportunities to more than 300 thousand artisans and craft persons from the minority communities.

26. **'Nai Roshni' Scheme** for Leadership Development of Minority Women to empower women and instill confidence. Since inception, nearly 400 thousand women from minority communities have benefitted under this scheme.

E. SPECIAL NEEDS:

27. **Hamari Dharohar Scheme** to preserve rich heritage of minority communities under the overall concept of Indian Culture.

28. **Swachh Vidyalaya** is a scheme under which, schools/ institutions that does not have the facility of toilets in their premises are provided grants to construct the separate toilet blocks for girls and boys.

F. OTHER AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR THE WELFARE OF MINORITIES

29. In a major step towards women empowerment, the Parliament on 30 July 2019 passed the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019**, to abolish the practice of Triple Talaq thereby extending gender justice and gender equality to Muslim women.

30. The **Citizenship Amendment Act 2019** enacted on 12 December 2019 provides for expedited consideration for Indian citizenship to certain persecuted religious minorities such as Hindu, Sikhs, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh which are already in India so that their basic human rights are met.

G. MEMBERS FROM THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL OR OTHER HIGHER POSTS IN INDIA

President

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, 25 July 2002 to 25 July 2007

Giani Zail Singh, 25 July 1982 to 25 July 1987

Dr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, 24 August 1974 to 11 February 1977

Dr. Zakir Husain, 13 May 1967 to 3 May 1969

Vice-President

Sh. M. Hamid Ansari, 11 August 2007 to 10 August 2017

Sh. M. Hidayatullah, 31 August 1979 to 30 August 1984

Dr. Zakir Hussain, 13 May 1962 to 12 May 1967

Prime Minister

Dr. Manmohan Singh, 22 May 2004 – 26 May 2014

External Affairs Minister

Sh. Salman Khurshid, 28 October 2012 to 26 May 2014

Home Minister

Giani Zail Singh, 4 January 1980 to 22 June 1982

Sardar Buta Singh, 12 May 1986 to 2 December 1989

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, 1989 to 10 November 1990

Defence Minister

Sh. George Fernandes 21 October 2001 – 22 May 2004

Sh. A.K. Antony, 24 October 2006 to 26 May 2014

Chief Justice of India

Mr. Justice M. Hidayatullah, 25 February 1968 to 16 December 1970

Mr. Justice M. Hameedullah Beg, 29 January 1977 to 21 February 1978

Mr. Justice A.M. Ahmadi, 25 October 1994 to 24 March 1997

Mr. Justice J.S. Khehar, 04 January 2017 to 27 August 2017

Chief Election Commissioners

Sh. M. S. Gill, 12 December 1996 to 13 June 2001 (Sikh)

Sh. J.M. Lyngdoh, 14 June 2001 to 7 February 2004

Sh. S. Y. Quraishi, 30 July 2010 to 10 June 2012 (Muslim)

Sh. Nasim Zaidi, 19 April 2015 to 5 July 2017 (Muslim)

Army Chiefs

Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, 8 June 1969 to 15 January 1973 (Parsi)

General Sunith Francis Rodrigues, 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1993 (Christian)

General Joginder Jaswant Singh, 31 January 2005 to 30 September 2007 (Sikh)

General Bikram Singh, 31 May 2012 to 31 July 2014 (Sikh)

Navy Chiefs

Admiral Jal Cursetji, March 1, 1976 to March 1, 1979 (Parsi)

Admiral Ronald Lynsdale Pereira, March 1, 1979 to February 28, 1982 (Christian)

Admiral Oscar Stanley Dawson, March 1, 1982 to November 30, 1984 (Christian)

Admiral Karambir Singh, incumbent (Sikh)

Air Chiefs

Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh, 1 August 1964 to 15 July 1969 (Sikh)

Air Chief Marshal Idris Hasan Latif, 1 December 1978 to 31 August 1981 (Muslim)

Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, 1 September 1981 to 3 September 1984 (Sikh)

Air Chief Marshal Denis Anthony La Fontaine, 3 July 1985 to 31 July 1988 (Christian)

Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major, 31 March 2007 to 31 May 2008 (Parsi)

Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, 31 December 2016 to 30 September 2019 (Sikh)

II. BRIEF ON THE SCHEMES BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR THE WELFARE OF MINORITIES IN INDIA

The vision of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India is to empower the minority communities in the country and to create an enabling environment for strengthening multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-religious character of India.

The mission is to improve the socio-economic conditions of the 6 notified minority communities (viz Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains) through affirmative action and inclusive development so that every citizen has equal opportunity to participate actively in building a dynamic nation; to facilitate an equitable share for minority communities in education, employment, economic activities; and to ensure their upliftment.

Policy & Strategy of the Ministry of Minority Affairs: The Ministry has adopted a multi-pronged strategy by way of implementation of various schemes which aim at educational empowerment, employment-oriented skill development, infrastructure support etc. for the upliftment of the notified minorities across the country. The Ministry has been implementing the following schemes:

A. SCHEMES FOR EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES

I. Scholarship Schemes:

a. Pre-Matric Scholarship

The Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for students of the minority communities was approved on 30th January, 2008. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central Government funding. The students studying in India in a government recognised private school, who secure 50% marks in the previous examination and whose parents' / guardians' annual income does not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh, are eligible for award of the Pre-matric scholarship under the scheme. Under the scheme, 30 lakh fresh scholarships are awarded every year in addition to the renewals. 30% of the scholarships have been earmarked for girl students. Scholarship ranging from Rs.1,000/- to Rs. 10,700/- is awarded to the selected student.

Progress made under the scheme with effect from 2014-15 to 2019-20, is as under:

| Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Year | Physical | | Financial |
| | Target | Achievement | Amount Released (Rs. in crore) |
| 2014-15 | 3000000 | 7496593 | 1128.81 |
| 2015-16 | 3000000 | 5178779 | 1015.72 |
| 2016-17 | 3000000 | 4153524 | 585.94 |
| 2017-18 | 3000000 | 48,74,220 | 1108.13 |
| 2018-19* | 3000000 | 5691854 | 1176.19 |
| 2019-20* | 3000000 | 5565691 | 1324.84 |

*Disbursement of scholarships of 2018-19 & 2019-20, if remaining, would be done in 2020-21 also.

b. Post-Matric Scholarship:

The Post-matric Scholarship Scheme was launched in November 2007. It is a Central Sector Scheme. Post-matric Scholarship is awarded for studies in a Government/ recognized private higher secondary schools/colleges including residential higher secondary schools/colleges of India. Scholarship ranging from Rs. 2,300/- to Rs. 15,000/- is awarded to selected student. Students who secure 50% marks in the previous year's final examination and whose parents' /guardians' annual income does not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh are eligible for award of scholarship under the scheme. 5 lakh fresh scholarships are awarded every year, in addition to the renewals. 30% of scholarships have been earmarked for girl students. In case sufficient numbers of girl students are not available, then eligible boy students are given these scholarships.

Progress made under the scheme with effect from 2014-15 to 2019-20, is as under:

| Post-matric Scholarship Scheme | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Year | Physical | | Financial |
| | Target | Achievement | Amount Released (Rs. in crore) |
| 2014-15 | 500000 | 905620 | 501.32 |
| 2015-16 | 500000 | 666840 | 552.83 |
| 2016-17 | 500000 | 624990 | 287.11 |
| 2017-18 | 500000 | 621321 | 479.72 |
| 2018-19* | 500000 | 684265 | 354.89 |
| 2019-20* | 500000 | 743573 | 428.77 |

*Disbursement of scholarships of 2018-19 & 2019-20, if remaining would be done in 2020-21 also.

c. Merit-cum-Means Based Scholarships

The Merit-cum Means Scholarship Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme, launched in 2007. Scholarships are awarded for pursuing professional and technical courses, at undergraduate

and post-graduate levels, in institutions recognized by appropriate authority. Under the scheme, 60,000 fresh scholarships are proposed to be awarded every year in addition to the renewals. 30% of these scholarships are earmarked for girl students, which may be utilized by eligible boy students, if an adequate number of eligible girl students are not available.

Eligible students admitted in any of the 85 reputed premier institutes for professional and technical courses listed under the Scheme are reimbursed full course fee. Students studying in other institutions are reimbursed a course fee of Rs.20, 000/- per annum and in addition a maintenance allowance of Rs. 5000/- per annum for day scholars and Rs. 10,000/- per annum for hostellers is also admissible.

The students, who have secured admission in any technical or professional institution, recognized by an appropriate authority are eligible under this scheme. In case of students admitted without a competitive examination, students should have secured not less than 50% marks in the qualifying exam at higher secondary/ graduation level in case of fresh scholarship. The annual income of the family from all sources should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakh. Progress made under the scheme with effect from 2014-15 to 2019-20, is as under:

| Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Year | Physical | | | Financial |
| | Target | Achievement | No. of Girls | Amount Released (Rs. in cr.) |
| 2014-15 | 60000 | 138770 | 45759 | 381.38 |
| 2015-16 | 60000 | 133582 | 45824 | 315.00 |
| 2016-17 | 60000 | 121937 | 42767 | 220.54 |
| 2017-18 | 60000 | 119472 | 44700 | 388.79 |
| 2018-19* | 60000 | 117771 | 45361 | 261.17 |
| 2019-20* | 60000 | 110196 | 49081 | 285.63 |

*Disbursement of scholarships of 2018-19 & 2019-20, if remaining would be done in 2020-21 also.

II. Free Coaching & Allied scheme (Naya Savera):

The objective of the scheme is to assist students/candidates belonging to the notified minority communities by way of special coaching for qualifying in competitive examinations for recruitment to Group 'A', 'B' & 'C' services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments including public sector undertakings, banks, railways etc. or for admission in technical/ professional courses.

The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central assistance to the selected coaching institutes/organisations. The scheme provides for earmarking 30% of the target for girls. As per the scheme, family income of the students has been enhanced from Rs. 3.00 lakh to Rs. 6.00 lakh per annum.

A New Component under Free Coaching & Allied Scheme was added from 2013-14 for focused preparation of Minority Students at classes 11 & 12 with Science subjects viz (Physics, Chemistry, Biology and/or Mathematics). A one year residential coaching programme for the students who have passed 12th class with minimum 75% marks with science subjects has also been added to the New Component.

Progress made under the scheme with effect from 2014-15 to 2019-20, is as under:

| Year of release | Achievement | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| | Physical | Financial (Rupees in crore) |
| 2014-15 | 8168 | 31.49 |
| 2015-16 | 16427 | 44.87 |
| 2016-17 | 8110 | 40.00 |
| 2017-18 | 11862 | 45.59 |
| 2018-19 | 10097 | 44.61 |
| 2019-20* | 1782 | 13.97 |

III. Nai Udaan

- Started in 2013-14.
- Financial assistance is provided to candidates who clear Prelims of UPSC, State PSCs, SSC exams.
- Implemented in DBT mode through a dedicated portal.
- Annual income of family enhanced from Rs. 6.0 lakh to Rs. 8.0 lakh.
- Rate of Financial Assistance:
 - For UPSC Exams: Rs. 1.00 lakh
 - For State PSCs (Gazetted post) : Rs. 50,000 /-
 - For SSC (CGL)/SPSCs (Non-Gazetted post) : Rs. 25,000/-

Achievement

| Year | Expenditure | Allocation (No of students provided financial assistance) |
|---------|-------------|--|
| 2014-15 | 2.96 | 786 |
| 2015-16 | 3.97 | 1071 |
| 2016-17 | 4.00 | 858 |
| 2017-18 | 6.21 | 1427 |
| 2018-19 | 6.72 | 1182 |
| 2019-20 | 8.01 | 1539 |

IV. Maulana Azad National Fellowship

The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme for Minority Students was launched on 11th April, 2009 as a Central Sector Scheme (CSS). The Scheme is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC). 100% Central assistance is provided under the Scheme. The objective of the Scheme is to provide five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from notified minority communities, to pursue higher studies such as M.

Phil and Ph.D. The Fellowship covers all Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The annual income ceiling of the parents/guardians of the candidates to be eligible for availing the fellowship has been increased from 2.50 lakh to 6.0 lakh. The fellowship amount to the selected candidates is disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode and credited directly into the account of the beneficiary.

30% of the fellowships have been earmarked for female candidates. In case there is shortage of female candidates, the fellowship can be passed on to male candidates of the same minority community.

Physical and Financial Achievements under MANF Scheme wef 2014-15 to 2019-20 is as under:

| Year | Number of Fresh Fellowships awarded (excluding renewals) | Fund released (Rs. in Crore) |
|---------|--|------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 756 | 0.12 |
| 2015-16 | 756 | 55.52 |
| 2016-17 | 756 | 119.92 |
| 2017-18 | 756 | 124.87 |
| 2018-19 | 1000 | 97.85 |
| 2019-20 | 1251 | 100.00 |

V. **Padho Pardesh**

Scheme of Interest Subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies. The scheme is implemented through the Canara Bank

- 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.
- To be eligible, students should not have annual parental/guardian's income of more than Rs.6.00 lakh.
- 35% scholarships are earmarked for girls.

Achievement

| Year | Expenditure (Rs. in Crore) | Target (No. of beneficiaries) | Achievement (No. of beneficiaries) |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 3.50 | 400 | 1090 |
| 2015-16 | 4.15 | 400 | 1737 |
| 2016-17 | 4.00 | 400 | 1673 |
| 2017-18 | 17.00 | 400 | 1580 |
| 2018-19 | 45.00 | 400 | 2470 |
| 2019-20 | 14.42 | 400 | 2302 (till 31.12.2019) |

- Although there is an annual target, interest subsidy is granted to all eligible beneficiaries.

VI. Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship implemented by MAEF:

MAEF had started this scholarship scheme in 2003-04. This was the first scholarship scheme at national level for meritorious girls belonging to minorities at the higher secondary level education i.e. for class 11th& 12th. This scholarship scheme has not only encouraged the minorities' girls for continuing their education but has also resulted in overall improvement in their literacy rate. From the year 2017-18, MAEF decided to extend the scholarship to minorities girls studying in classes 9th and 10th also. The applications are submitted online and the amount of scholarship is transferred directly into the bank account of selected beneficiaries. Selection is made on merit basis based on State-wise quota.

Under this scheme, MAEF is providing scholarship to girl students studying in classes 9th, 10th, 11th& 12th. For classes 9th& 10th an amount of Rs.5,000/- each and for classes 11th& 12th an amount of Rs. 6,000/- each is provided to selected girl students. Minorities' girls who are studying in these classes who have secured at least 50% marks in previous class, their parents' / guardians' annual income is upto Rs.2 lakh and not getting scholarship from any other source are entitled to apply under Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship.

Achievement:

| Year | No. of minority girls | Funds released (Rs. in crore) |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2015-16 | 40000 | 17.60 |
| 2016-17 | 33482 | 40.18 |
| 2017-18 | 114094 | 64.03 |
| 2018-19 | 200000 | 111.39 |
| 2019-20 | 295026 | 165.19 |

B. SCHEMES FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF MINORITIES

I. Skill Development (Seekho aur Kamao)

The Ministry of Minority Affairs launched "Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)", a placement linked Skill Development scheme for Minorities in 2013. The scheme aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment.

The scheme is implemented through Selected Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs)

Under the scheme, Common Norms of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for skill development program are followed. National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) compliant courses are taken up. In addition, traditional skills being practiced by the minority communities are also taken up for up-gradation and market linkages. The scheme ensures placements of minimum 75% trainees, out of which at least 50% placement is in organized sector.

Post placement tracking of trainees is mandatory for PIAs for one year. During the post placement tracking, particularly for those who are engaged in organized sector, PIAs are required to maintain information of the number of the placed candidates, their bank accounts and salary slips etc. **Minimum 33% seats are earmarked for minority girls/ women under**

the scheme. No. of beneficiaries covered every year under the Scheme has been around one lakh except in the years 2014-15 and 2018-19 as indicated in the following table:

Year-wise Expenditure Details

| Year | Budget (Cr) | Expenditure (Cr) | Target (no. of beneficiaries) | Allocation (no. of beneficiaries) | Trained (no. of beneficiaries) | Placements (no. of beneficiaries) |
|---------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2013-14 | 17.00 | 17.00 | 20,000 | 20,164 | 19,524 | 15,247 |
| 2014-15 | 46.23 | 46.21 | 20,000 | 20,720 | 20,686 | 15,694 |
| 2015-16 | 192.45 | 191.96 | 113,000 | 123,330 | 96,494 | 45,496 |
| 2016-17 | 210.00 | 204.93 | 115,000 | 64,574 | 62,124 | |
| 2017-18 | 200.00 | 199.80 | 120,000 | 120,000 | 83,309* | |
| 2018-19 | 250.00 | 175.73 | 130,000 | 120,000 | | |
| 2019-20 | 250.00 | 175.41 | 140,000 | 30,000* | | |

*Provisional figures – allocation is being finalized.

II. Nai Manzil-

The scheme was launched in 2015 and it aims to benefit the minority youth i.e. those in the category of school-dropouts or educated in community education institutes like Madarasas etc. **The scheme has been approved with the cost of Rs.650 crore for five years with 50% funding from the World Bank.** It provides the minority youth formal education and skill training and enables them to seek better employment and livelihood. The scheme, as such, provides education bridge programme to eligible minority youth, to obtain schooling certification of class 8th/10th under Open Basis Education, impart high quality skill training including soft skills. The scheme also provides job placement support to assist sustainable employment to the beneficiaries. Progress made since inception is given in the following table:

| Year | Target | Beneficiaries Allotted | Beneficiaries Enrolled in Education | Beneficiaries Certified – Education | Beneficiaries Certified - Skills | Beneficiaries Employed |
|---------|----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2016-17 | 27000 | 69840 | - | - | - | - |
| 2017-18 | 30000 | 30140 | 68937 | - | | |
| 2018-19 | 30500 | | 28681 | 20761 | 63849 | 22021 |
| 2019-20 | 12500 | - | 693 | 18542 | 22359 | - |
| Total | 1,00,000 | 99,980 | 98311 | 39403 | 86208 | 22021 |

Financial Progress

(Rs. in crore)

| F.Y | BE | RE | Expenditure | % of Expenditure |
|---------|-----|-------|-------------|------------------|
| 2016-17 | - | 120 | 117.97 | 98.3 |
| 2017-18 | 175 | 95.79 | 92.79 | 92.79 |
| 2018-19 | 140 | 120 | 93.73 | 78.1 |
| 2019-20 | 140 | 100 | 34.44 | |
| | | | | |

III. Loan schemes of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was incorporated as a Govt. Company on 30th Sept.1994 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (now section 8 of Companies Act 2013). It is a "C" schedule company operating under the administrative control of Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

The Corporation has been set up to promote economic development for the benefit of "Backward Sections" amongst the minorities, preference being given to the occupational group and women. The Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis & Jains have been notified as National Minorities by the Central Government under the National Minorities Commission Act, 1992

Target Group As Per Annual Income

- Under Credit Line-1, the benefits are available for persons having annual family income of upto Rs.98,000/- in rural areas and Rs.1.20 lakhs in urban areas.
- Under Credit Line-2, the benefits are available to persons with annual family income of upto Rs.6.00 lacs. Additional household income eligibility criterion has been introduced to expand the coverage of the scheme.

Five Year Achievement

| Sr. No. | Year | Amount Disbursed (Rs.in Crore) | No. of beneficiaries |
|---------|---------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2015-16 | 473.29 | 1,60,535 |
| 2 | 2016-17 | 503.32 | 1,59,661 |
| 3 | 2017-18 | 570.83 | 1,69,563 |
| 4 | 2018-19 | 603.66 | 1,75,841 |
| 5. | 2019-20 | 602.51 | 1,36,649 |

C. SCHEME FOR PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN MINORITY CONCENTRATION AREAS

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) - PMJVK (earlier known as Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP), is a Centrally sponsored scheme identified as **core of the core schemes** under National Development Agenda by the NITI Aayog, was launched in 2008-09 with the objective of developing assets for socio-economic and basic amenities, in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs). The MsDP scheme was restructured in June 2013 and again in May 2018. The parameters for identification of MCAs are now based on the data of Census, 2011. Projects under the scheme are sanctioned for the welfare of minorities but do not exclude other population living in the catchment area.

Under the restructured PMJVK, 1300 Minority Concentration Areas have been identified on the basis of Census 2011 data, with the following break up:

- a. 109 Minority Concentration District (MCD) Headquarters,

- b. 870 Minority Concentration Blocks and
- c. 321 Minority Concentration Blocks.

Further, 80% of the resources under the programme are allocated for education, health and skill development and at least 33-40% of resources are for women centric projects.

Under PMJVK, the major projects sanctioned with effect from 2014-15, are indicated below:

- Degree Colleges - 32,
- School Buildings - 1512
- Health Centres - 1882
- AWCs - 5956
- Drinking Water Facilities - 5047
- Handpumps/Tubewells - 12415
- Addl. Classrooms - 22188
- ITI s - 92
- Polytechnics - 13
- Hostels - 630
- Residential schools - 162

In the last about two years, projects such as Residential Schools, hostels, etc. have been prioritised in the identified minority concentration areas. Residential schools maybe co education or for boys/girls. So far 139 such schools have been sanctioned. The infrastructure provided under PMJVK does not exclude other population in catchment area from using the same. Details of funds released under the PMJVK Scheme wef 2014-15 to 2019-20 are shown below:

| Year | Funds released (Rs. in crore) |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 767.86 |
| 2015-16 | 1120.34 |
| 2016-17 | 1080.71 |
| 2017-18 | 1195.75 |
| 2018-19 | 1153.64 |
| 2019-20 | 1698.29 |

D. OTHER SPECIAL SCHEMES/ INITIATIVES

1. Nai Roshni (Leadership Development of Minority Women)

- Started in 2012-13 as Central Sector Scheme.
- A short term training programme for sensitization of women from minority communities to achieve economic empowerment and leadership.

- Training modules on Leadership, Educational Programmes, Health and Hygiene, Legal rights, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Swachh Bharat, Life Skills and Advocacy for Social and Behavioral change.
- Since inception, 4.01 lakh women trained in 27 States with total expenditure of Rs. 97.84 crore till Sept. 2020.

2. Jiyo Parsi Scheme

For containing the population decline of the Parsi community, a Central Sector Scheme 'Jiyo Parsi' was launched during 2013-14. The objective of this scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions to stabilize their population and balance their population in India.

There are three components under the scheme namely, Advocacy, Health of the Community and Medical Assistance. Total budgetary provision of Rs. 12 Crore for these three components has been made for implementation of the scheme during 2017-2018 to 2019-2020. As on 31/7/2020, 268 babies have been born with the assistance of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, since its inception.

E. HAJ MANAGEMENT:

The Ministry manages the Haj work in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Health, Haj Committee of India (HCOI) and Consulate General of India (CGI), Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Smooth and comfortable Haj pilgrimage is being ensured with coordination of various Government agencies. The quota for Indian Haj Pilgrims has been greatly enhanced from 1.75 Lakh to 2.00 Lakh for Haj 2019. The Government has allowed Muslim women to go on Haj pilgrimage without "Mehram" (male companion). 1171 women performed Haj without Mehram during Haj 2018, which increased to 2229 pilgrims during Haj 2019.

III. MEASURES AND INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS IN INDIA

Cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet. With a borderless cyberspace, coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for misuse of cyberspace and social media platforms for criminal activities is a global issue. There are media reports about social media platforms being misused for spreading misinformation and fake news and posting objectionable videos on social media platforms and video sharing websites.

The Government of India's Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has provisions for removal of objectionable online content. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under the Act require that the intermediaries, which include social media platforms, shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, and unlawful in any way. Also, section 79 of the

Act provides that intermediaries are required to disable/ remove unlawful content on being notified by appropriate government or its agency.

Further, section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 empowers the Government to block any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with Foreign States, public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to the above.

Government of India has taken several steps to address the challenges of misinformation and rumors spreading via social media platforms. These, *inter alia*, include:

- (i) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are in regular touch with various social media platforms to effectively address the issue of removal of objectionable content.
- (ii) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up a dedicated cell, Counter Misinformation Unit, under the Press Information Bureau as a measure to counter fake news on policies, schemes, programmes of the Government of India. The Unit has a presence on prominent social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It takes *suo moto* cognizance of fake news going viral on social media and on the basis of outside complaints.
- (iii) MeitY regularly interacts with social media platforms on issues related to spread of fake news, misinformation/disinformation on Internet. Social media platforms have implemented a number of steps to address the issue of fake news propagated using their platform.
- (iv) MHA has issued a number of advisories such as the advisory on cyber-crime prevention and control dated 13.01.2018.
- (v) MeitY through its Information Security Education & Awareness programme has been creating awareness among users highlighting the importance of following ethics while using Internet and advising them not to share rumors/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness provides relevant awareness material (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>).
- (vi) MHA has created a Twitter Handle, Cyber Dost, to spread awareness on cyber safety and cyber security. MHA has also published a Handbook for Adolescents/Students on Cyber Safety.

In 2019, India supported the New Zealand-French initiative of the 'Christchurch Call to Action' to eliminate violent extremist content online. Earlier this year, following the COVID-19 pandemic, India joined 12 other countries in co-authoring the cross-regional statement on "Infodemic". It recognized the conditions that enabled "the spread of disinformation...to foment violence and divide communities" and called on countries "to take steps to counter the spread of such disinformation."
