

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 the overall policy, planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the regulatory and development programmes for the benefit of the minority communities. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) 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. Nine schemes included in the new programme are considered amenable to earmarking. They are:-

- (1) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme by providing services through Anganwadi Centres
- (2) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- (3) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
- (4) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)
- (5) Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY)

- (6) Upgradation of existing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Centres of Excellence.
- (7) Bank credit under priority sector lending.
- (8) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
- (9) Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) and Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

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

Ans. The schemes are:-

- (i) merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels
- (ii) pre-matric scholarship
- (iii) post-matric scholarship
- (iv) coaching and allied scheme
- (v) multi-sectoral development programme for minority concentration districts

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

Ans. Three new scholarship schemes have been introduced starting from class – I upto P.hD. They are

- (i) Merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels for students belonging to the minority communities.
- (ii) Post-matric scholarship from class – XI upto P.hD. including technical courses at XI and XII level recognized by NCVT.
- (iii) Pre-matric scholarship from class – I to class X.

These scholarships are awarded to students who fulfill certain requirements of the scheme including an income criterion.

Ques. 5. When are the students expected to apply?

Ans. These are Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented through states/UTs. They will be releasing advertisements around the time admissions are made 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.

Ques. 6. Is there any earmarking for girl students?

Ans. In all the scholarship schemes of the Ministry, 30% of scholarships have been earmarked for girl students.

Ques. 7. What types of coaching are available?

Ans. Coaching is available for various jobs like civil services examinations, state civil services, entrance examination for medical, engineering and management, and jobs in the private sector. Students and candidates should look out for advertisements released by the coaching institute and apply for availing the appropriate coaching facility.

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

Ans. MCDs stand for Minority Concentration Districts. 90 such districts have been identified on the basis of population of minority communities and backwardness parameters.

Ques. 9. Is there any scheme for development of MCDs?

Ans. The Central Government has approved a scheme called multi-sectoral development programme for minority concentration districts.

Ques. 10. What are the main objectives of the multi-sectoral development programme for minority concentration districts?

Ans. Minority concentration districts 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 districts, mainly in the areas of education, livelihood support, housing, sanitation, water and electricity supply.

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 Wakf Council (CWC), New Delhi
- (iv) National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi
- (v) Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, Allahabad

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

Ans. National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) provides term loan and micro-finance to persons from the minority communities below double the poverty line, for income generating activities. It does so through State Channelising Agencies and NGOs. It also extends education loans and assists in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills for proper and efficient management of production units.

Ques. 13. What are the main activities of MAEF?

Ans. Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) implements various schemes for development of education amongst educationally backward minorities.

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 Committee 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.h.D.
- A free coaching & allied scheme

They have all been approved and implementation has started.

- (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 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. In 2007-08, 523 branches were opened in such districts. In 2008-09, 329 new branches have been opened till 31st December, 2008.
- (ii) Road map has been laid out to raise priority sector lending to minority communities to 15% by the end of 2009-10.
- (iii) The authorised share capital of the NMDFC was increased from Rs.650 crore to Rs.750 crore in 2007-08 and to Rs.850 crore in 2008-09. NMDFC has given financial assistance to 425156 beneficiaries amounting to Rs.1172.36 crore in 25 States and 3 Union Territories since inception till 31st January, 2009. In 2008-09, an amount of Rs.112.24 crore has been disbursed to 42025 beneficiaries till 31st January, 2009. It has been approved 'in-principle' that NMDFC will be restructured

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.
