

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2812
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2026

IMPACT OF SCHEMES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

2812. SHRI IMRAN MASOOD:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: -

- (a) whether the Government has evaluated the impact of scholarship, education loan and skill development schemes for minority students;
- (b) if so, details of the students benefited under these schemes during the last three years, State and community-wise; and
- (c) whether the process of selection of beneficiaries and the mode of payment have been made completely digital and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a to c): Ministry of Minority Affairs implements following schemes/programmes for socio-economic empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities namely Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Muslims, Parsis and Sikhs in India:

I. SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

The Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented the scholarship scheme with 03 components i.e. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means until 2021-22 wherein an amount of Rs. 20610 crore was released to 8.12 crore eligible minority beneficiaries since inception of the scheme. However, no evaluation of the impact of the scholarship schemes has been undertaken so far. The scholarship schemes have not been in operation beyond FY 2021–22. Consequently, no fresh beneficiaries have been covered under these schemes during the last three years.

However, during the operation of the scheme selection of beneficiaries was carried out through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). Scholarship payments were released through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism using the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS), ensuring transparency, efficiency and timely disbursement of scholarship amounts.

II. EDUCATION LOAN AND FELLOWSHIP

The Ministry of Minority Affairs has designated the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a non-profit company incorporated under Section 25 of the

Companies Act, 1956 as the implementing agency for the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme. As per the data available on the Scholarship and Fellowship Management Portal (SFMP), the State-wise number of beneficiaries under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme during the last three financial years is enclosed at **Annexure-I**. Community-wise details of beneficiaries under MANF scheme for the last three financial years is enclosed at **Annexure-II**. Further, the number of students benefitted under Educational Loan scheme of NMDFC during the last three years, State and community-wise is enclosed at **Annexure-III**.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs discontinued the MANF Scheme with effect from the financial year 2022–23. However, existing MANF Fellows continue to receive fellowship benefits until the completion of their fellowship tenure, subject to the extant guidelines of the Scheme.

Under the Education Loan Scheme of NMDFC, applications are received via online MILAN Portal and selection of beneficiaries is carried out by the Selection Committee constituted at the level of the respective State Channelising Agencies (SCAs). Upon completion of the required documentation by the student beneficiary, the loan amount is generally released directly to the bank account of the concerned college/institution.

NMDFC regularly undertakes independent third-party impact assessment studies to evaluate the effectiveness of its concessional credit schemes, including the Education Loan Scheme. The latest impact assessment study was conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi during 2025–26.

III. SKILL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Government has conducted impact and evaluation studies of Seekho Aur Kamao (SAK), USTTAD, Nai Manzil, and Nai Roshni schemes of this Ministry. The studies found positive outcomes in skill enhancement, employability, income generation, educational attainment, leadership development, and socio-economic empowerment of minority beneficiaries. The above schemes along with Hamari Dharohar scheme were combined to launch Pradhan Mantri Virsat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme was launched in 2025.

Under the PM VIKAS scheme a total of 59 PIAs have been allotted a target of 1.56 lakhs beneficiaries across 31 States/UTs. So far, 32,138 candidates have been trained under the scheme.

The Ministry has progressively digitized beneficiary selection, monitoring and fund-transfer processes using online portals/MIS systems for beneficiary and programme management. Beneficiary selection, fund flow and monitoring have largely moved to digital platforms, while continuous improvements are being recommended to achieve complete end-to-end digitization and real-time tracking.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN POINT (A TO C) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2812 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2026 REGARDING “IMPACT OF SCHEMES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS” ASKED BY SHRI IMRAN MASOOD.

The State-wise no. of beneficiaries under the MANF Scheme during the last three financial years:

S.No.	State/ Year	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	-	-	-
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	10	7	3
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	5	3	2
4	ASSAM	37	26	23
5	BIHAR	69	44	20
6	CHANDIGARH	2	1	1
7	CHHATISGARH	0	0	0
8	DELHI	91	86	60
9	GOA	1	1	1
10	GUJARAT	13	12	10
11	HARYANA	24	14	12
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	10	8	8
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	374	267	176
14	JHARKHAND	22	13	9
15	KARNATAKA	20	16	13
16	KERALA	163	116	86
17	LADAKH	3	2	2
18	LAKSHADWEEP	0	1	0
19	MADHYA PRADESH	18	14	11
20	MAHARASHTRA	52	34	22
21	MANIPUR	15	10	7
22	MEGHALAYA	9	7	4
23	MIZORAM	4	1	0
24	NAGALAND	8	4	4
25	ODISHA	8	3	2
26	PUDUCHERRY	2	2	1
27	PUNJAB	108	85	57
28	RAJASTHAN	22	9	5
29	SIKKIM	4	2	2
30	TAMIL NADU	15	6	4
31	TELANGANA	22	17	12
32	TRIPURA	2	2	2
33	UTTAR PRADESH	300	235	145
34	UTTARAKHAND	14	11	9
35	WEST BENGAL	178	127	111
	Grand Total	1625	1186	824

* The number of beneficiaries in each year includes fellows availing fellowship during the successive years of their Ph.D. programme.

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN POINT (A TO C) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2812 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2026 REGARDING “IMPACT OF SCHEMES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS” ASKED BY SHRI IMRAN MASOOD.

The community-wise details under MANF Scheme of beneficiaries for the last three financial years:

Community/ Year	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
BUDDHIST	33	27	28
CHRISTIAN	93	87	65
Community not mentioned	610	192	85
JAIN	21	21	18
MUSLIM	781	766	562
PARSI	1	1	1
SIKH	86	92	65
Grand Total	1625	1186	824

* The number of beneficiaries in each year includes fellows availing fellowship during the successive years of their Ph.D. programme.

Annexure-III**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN POINT (A TO C) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2812 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2026 REGARDING “IMPACT OF SCHEMES FOR MINORITY STUDENTS” ASKED BY SHRI IMRAN MASOOD.**

State-wise and Community-wise details of beneficiaries financed under the NMDFC Education Loan schemes during last three Financial Years.

States	Muslims	Christians	Sikhs	Jains	Buddhists	Parsis	Total
HIMACHAL PRADESH	7	0	4	0	0	0	11
JAMMU & KASHMIR	204	0	3	0	0	0	207
KERALA	399	425	0	0	0	0	824
MAHARASHTRA	131	3	0	29	0	0	163
PUNJAB	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
RAJASTHAN	30	0	2	3	0	0	35
TAMIL NADU	14	15	0	0	0	0	29
WEST BENGAL	1453	4	1	1	0	0	1459
Grand Total	2238	447	12	33	0	0	2730