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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2024-25)**

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2025-26)**

EIGHTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2025/ Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

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(2025-26)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.3.2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.3.2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25)**

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Smt. Vijayalakshmi Devi
5. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
6. Km.Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi
7. Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi
8. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
9. Shri Murari Lal Meena
10. Smt. Bag Mitali
11. Shri Bhojraj Nag
12. Shri Godam Nagesh
13. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel
14. Shri Rajkumar Roat
15. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
16. Adv. Priya Saroj
17. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
18. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
19. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
20. Dr. Lata Wankhede
21. Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav

Rajya Sabha

22. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
23. Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha
24. Shri Narayana Koragappa
25. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
26. Shri Ramji
27. Shri Rameswar Teli
28. Smt. Mamata Thakur
29. Smt. P. T. Usha
30. Shri Abdul Wahab
31. Shri Niranjana Bishi

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Mamta Kemwal - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Krishendra Kumar - Deputy Secretary
3. Shri Satyakaam Yadav - Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee do present on their behalf this Eighth Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2025-26' pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

2. The Committee considered the 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs which were laid on the Table of the House on 13 February, 2025. After obtaining the Budget Documents, Explanatory Notes, etc., the Committee took evidence of the Ministry of Minority Affairs on 21 February, 2025. The Committee considered and adopted the Report at the sitting held on 18.03.2025.

3. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for tendering oral evidence and placing before them the detailed written notes and post evidence information as desired by the Committee in connection with the examination of the 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)'.

4. For ease of reference observations/ recommendations/ comments of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

New Delhi
18 March, 2025
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

SHRI P.C MOHAN
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Justice
and Empowerment

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTORY

The mandate of the Ministry of Minority Affairs includes formulation of overall policy and planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the regulatory and development programmes for the benefit of the minority communities namely Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims.

1.2 The vision of the Ministry is to create an enabling environment for strengthening the multi-facial, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-religious character of the nation. The mission of the Ministry is to improve the socio-economic condition of the Minority communities through an affirmative action and inclusive development so that every citizen has equal opportunity and to participate accordingly in building a dynamic nation, to facilitate equitable share for Minority communities in education, employment, economic activities and to ensure their upliftment.

1.3 The following Schemes are being implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of Minority Communities:

- I. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)**, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry provides for development of infrastructure projects in Education, Health, Skill Development Sectors and Women-centric projects, for improving the socio-economic conditions of people in the identified areas.
- II. The Ministry has designed **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)**, an umbrella scheme by converging five of the existing schemes of the Ministry namely –Seekho Aur Kamao, Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts / Crafts for Development (USTTAD), Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.
- III. The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements three scholarship schemes namely Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for the educational empowerment of notified minority communities. The schemes intend to lower the financial burden of financially weaker sections of religious minority communities. As part of an overall exercise to harmonize all the scholarship schemes of various Ministries/ Departments, the schemes will be brought under the ambit of an umbrella scheme.

- IV. **Jiyo Parsi** is a Central Sector Scheme concerning the decline of Parsi population in India. The scheme has three components, Medical Assistance, Advocacy and Health of Community. Since inception, the scheme has enabled birth of more than 400 Parsi children till 31.03.2024.
- V. The **National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)** was incorporated on 30.09.1994 as a 'Not for Profit' company under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013). NMDFC provides concessional credit viz., Term Loan, Education Loan, Micro Finance & Virasat implemented through the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) for self-employment and income generating activities for the socio-economic development of the 'backward sections' amongst the notified Minorities.

1.4 The Ministry of Minority Affairs had proposed for the Budgetary Allocation of ₹4381.28 crore for the year 2025-26 for different Schemes. The Ministry of Finance has, however, allocated ₹3350.00 crore. The Scheme-wise proposal made by the Ministry and the allocations made by the Ministry of Finance for the year 2025-26 is as follows:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No	Scheme	Budget Proposal by the Ministry 2025-26	Allocations made by the Ministry of Finance 2025-26
Central Sector Schemes			
1	Free coaching and allied scheme for candidates belonging to Minority Communities.	10.00	10.00
2	Research/studies, monitoring and evaluation of Development schemes including publicity	20.00	20.00
3	Grant-in-aid to State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) of NMDFC	7.00	3.00
4	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	28.56	42.84
5.	Qaumi Waqf Boards Taraqquti Scheme and Sahari Waqf Sampati Vikas Yojana.	13.00	13.00
6	Interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies	5.10	8.16
7	Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community.	6.00	6.00
8	Merit-cum-means based scholarship.	33.80	7.34
9	Pre-matric scholarship	326.16	195.70

10	Post-matric scholarship	1145.38	413.99
11	PM VIKAS	558.32	517.29
	Centrally Sponsored Schemes		
12	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(PMJVK)	2000.00	1913.97
13	Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities	0.00	0.01
	Others		
14	Secretariat	40.00	37.81
15	National Commission for Minorities	15.39	14.89
16	Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities	4.00	3.00
17	HAI,CGI Jeddah and Haj Secretariat	168.57	143.00
	Grand Total	4381.28	3350.00

1.5 The Committee examined the following issues in the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Minority Affairs of the year 2024-25:

- (i) Budgetary provisions and utilization
- (ii) Educational Empowerment
- (iii) Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PMVIKAS)

1.6 During the examination of Demands for Grants for 2025-26 of the Department, the Committee exhaustively examined all the Schemes / Programmes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. However, the Committee decided to draw the attention of Ministry of Minority Affairs on the welfare schemes including educational and skill development Schemes meant for educational and economic upliftment of the Minorities in this Report. These Schemes have been dealt in the succeeding chapters of this Report.

CHAPTER II

BUDGETARY PROVISIONS AND UTILIZATION

The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2025-26 are given under Demand No.70. The detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry were laid in Parliament on 13th February, 2025. As per the Demands for Grants, the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been provided ₹3,350.00 crore for the implementation of various Schemes of the Ministry.

2.2 The scheme-wise details of plan outlays and expenditure during 2022-23, 2023-2024, 2024-25 and Budgetary Estimates for 2025-26 are as under:-

(₹. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/Programme	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			BE 2025-26
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp)	BE	RE	Actual Exp.(upto 31 st Dec.,2024)	
1	Contribution to equity of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	159.00	159.00	159.00	61.00	61.00	61.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
2.	Grants-in-aid to Maulana Azad Education Foundation.	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Research /studies, monitoring & evaluation of development schemes for Minorities including publicity	41.00	25.00	4.83	20.00	20.00	15.00	13.27	12.20	5.48	20.00
4	Merit cum means Scholarship	365.00	358.02	34.90	44.00	25.00	152.74	33.80	19.41	3.50	7.34
5	Free Coaching & Allied Scheme for minorities	79.00	29.97	25.00	30.00	14.00	11.70	10.00	3.50	1.46	10.00
6	Grants in aid to state Channelizing Agencies (SCA) engaged for implementation in NMDFC programme.	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2	0.00	3.00
7	Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram(Earlier MsDP)	1650.00	500.00	222.66	600.00	550.00	189.23	910.90	908.90	618.00	1913.97
				43.95	433.00	400.00	95.84	326.16	90.00	1.55	195.70
8	Pre-matric scholarship	1425.00	556.82								
9	Post matric scholarship	515.00	515.00	29.00	1065.00	1000.00	85.02	1145.38	343.91	5.31	413.99
10	Secretariat	30.61	30.61	25.02	35.00	35.00	29.59	35.62	43.81	25.37	37.81
11	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	99.00	99.00	98.85	96.00	54.00	83.45	45.08	45.08	25.00	42.84
12	Qaumi Wakf Boards taraqqiuti Scheme.	10.00	10.00	5.12	10.00	5.00	0.10	10.00	3.06	0.00	10.00
13	Sahari Waqf Sampati Vikas Yojana(Earlier GIA to Waqf)	5.00	5.00	0.00	7.00	3.00	0.00	6.00	0.01	0.00	3.00

14	Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women.	2.50	2.00	0.62	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies for students belonging to minority communities.	24.00	24.00	24.00	21.00	7.00	0.00	15.30	15.30	0.00	8.16
16	Scheme for containing population decline of small minority community.	10.00	5.00	2.70	6.00	3.00	1.00	6.00	5.53	4.03	6.00
17	Skill Development Initiative	235.41	100.00	65.28	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil. Scheme converge into PM VIKAS
18	Support for students clearing Prelims conducted by UPSC, SSC, State Public Services Commissions etc.	8.00	1.68	1.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts /Crafts for Development (USTTAD)	47.00	47.00	10.61	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
20	Hamari Dharohar	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
21	Nai Manzil	46.00	20.00	7.62	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	Nil. Scheme converge into PM VIKAS
22	National Commission for Minorities	12.70	12.70	11.24	15.00	13.50	12.18	14.00	14.00	10.07	14.89
23	Special officer for Linguistic Minorities	2.85	2.85	1.98	4.00	2.88	1.59	3.00	2.00	1.31	3.00
24	Haj Management	89.42	75.00	61.56	97.00	86.69	83.51	97.00	129.46	93.94	143.00
25	Education Scheme for Madrasas and Minorities(Transferred from Deptt. of Education and school Literacy)	160.00	30.00	0.08	10.00	5.00	0.01	2.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
26	Pradhan Mantri Virasat ka Samvardhan(PM VIKAS)	-	-	-	540.00	325.86	209.42	500	230.00	124.08	517.29
	Total	5020.50	2612.66	837.68	3097.60	2608.93	1032.65	3183.24	1868.18	919.10	3350.00

2.3 On being enquired the reasons due to which the Ministry was not able to spend even reduced budgetary allocation at the revised stage during the year 2024-25 and their plan to spend the funds allocated for the year 2025-26, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed *vide* written reply that:

“(i) As on 31st Jan. 2025, an expenditure of 641.41 Crore was incurred under PMJVK scheme which is 70.57 per cent of the fund allocated under RE. An additional amount of Rs. 100 Crore has been requested for the scheme under 2nd batch of Supplementary for 2024-25.

(ii) Under PM VIKAS scheme head, for the year 2023-24, the Revised Estimate was Rs.109.88 against which no expenditure could be made as the scheme did not initiate. Now, the approval of competent authority on Scheme Guidelines of PM VIKAS Scheme has been obtained:

The Ministry has received 3 proposals under PM VIKAS. It is expected that the meeting of Empowered Committee Meeting may be organised soon and on ground implementation under the projects may start from April, 2025. Efforts would be made to completely utilise the funds allocated under the Scheme for FY 2024-25 and 2025-26.

(iii) In absence of approval of Scholarship Schemes by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the allocated funds were not utilized. Therefore, expenditure from Revised Estimate could not be made. In so far the Scholarship Division is concerned, the funds allocated against BE 2025-26 will be spent once the Scheme is approved.”

2.4 On being asked about the Schemes and Programmes that have been discontinued in previous years and are likely to be discontinued in future alongwith the alternate measures taken in this regard , the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted vide written reply that :

“(i) With the approval of competent authority, 02 schemes namely (a) Free Coaching & Allied Scheme, and (b) Nai Udaan, were discontinued from beginning of FY 2022-23. Under the Free Coaching and Allied Schemes (Naya Savera) wherein coaching was provided to minority youth was discontinued as the New Education Policy 2020, does not support coaching programs. Under the Nai Udaan scheme financial support was provided to candidates who qualify in the preliminary examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), State Public Service Commissions (SPSCs). As no other Ministry / Department was providing such support to their beneficiaries, thus, in order to attain uniformity, the Ministry, decided to discontinue the Scheme w.e.f. 2022-23.

(ii) From year 2022-23 onwards, the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme is being harmonized with the Schemes of other line ministries, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, etc. Accordingly, the coverage under the Pre-Matric Scheme has been restricted to class IX-X, whereas Schemes like Padho Pardesh and Maulana Azad National Fellowship have been discontinued since 2022-23 due to the fact that there was an overlap of these two schemes with the schemes of other Ministries/ Departments.

(iii) The Scheme of Providing Education in Madaras/Minorities (SPEMM), comprising 2 sub-components namely (i) SPQEM, and (ii) IDMI, was under implementation of Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education from 1993-94 to 2020-21. Thereafter, the scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2021-22. As the Scheme was approved upto FY 2021-22, thus, the Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented the scheme upto 2021-22 only.”

2.5 As regards to policy changes likely to be introduced in 2025-26 for the effective implementation of the Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry so that the welfare of the notified Minority communities is not compromised, the Committee were informed vide written reply that:

(i) “As per the felt needs on the basis of experience gained during implementation and execution of PMJVK and also based on the recommendations given by different independent Evaluations Studies during the years 2008-09 to 2022, from time to time necessary modifications have been carried out in the scheme’ guidelines. The latest amendments in the PMJVK’ Guidelines were carried out in April 2022 inter-alia making it implementable across the country irrespective of the declared Minority Concentration Areas along with some more changes. In future also the scheme would be subject to modifications as per the requirements.

(ii) In respect of Scholarship Schemes, as of now, Ministry is making efforts to get the schemes approved for implementation at the earliest.

(iii) The Ministry has designed and constructed the PM VIKAS scheme considering the specific requirements of the notified minority communities. The scheme aims at providing comprehensive skill development, traditional training, leadership and entrepreneurship promotion and education support to the notified minority communities.”

2.6. The Committee note that the actual expenditure of the Ministry of Minority Affairs has gone down considerably during previous years. The Ministry could spend only ₹837.68 crore and ₹1,032.65 crore out of ₹2,612.66 (RE) crore and ₹2,608.93 (RE) crore during the year 2022-23 and 2023-24. The situation did not improve in 2024-25 as the Ministry were able to spend only ₹919.10 crore out of budgetary allocation of ₹3,183.24 crore (BE) by 31 December, 2024. The Committee have been apprised that the Ministry have not been able to spend the budgetary allocation as several Schemes such as 'Free Coaching and Allied Scheme', 'Nai Udaan', 'Scheme of Providing Education in Madrasas/ Minorities (SPEMM)', etc, have been discontinued and PM-VIKAS launched in 2023-24 did not initiate. Further, the amount allocated during 2022-23 to 2024-25 under various Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry could not be spent because these Schemes are under consideration for approval since 2022-23 as they are being harmonised with the Schemes of other line Ministries, viz. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Committee strongly believe that the Ministry of Minority Affairs are making all efforts to achieve the mission of the Ministry by streamlining and strengthening the prevailing System so that the deserving Minorities can avail the benefits of the Schemes and the funds are not misused. The Committee feel that the steps taken by the Ministry were necessary in order to harmonize the system with the welfare Schemes of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs and hope that these steps will improve the implementation of the Schemes and enhance the socio-economic condition of six notified minority communities in the country. Since the Ministry of Minority Affairs are in process of streamlining/strengthening the prevailing System, the Committee expect that the necessary approvals will be obtained by the Ministry at the earliest so that the allocated Budget of ₹3,350.00 crore for 2025-26 is fruitfully utilised. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry of Minority

Affairs to vigorously pursue with the concerned Ministries/ Departments for the pending approvals and keep the administrative machinery of the Ministry ready for immediate implementation of the Schemes as soon as they are approved.

CHAPTER III

EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements three Scholarship Schemes namely Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for the educational empowerment of the six centrally notified minority communities viz. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh. The Scheme intends to lower the financial burden of financially weaker Section of Poor religious minority community.

3.2 The Budgetary Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the last three years along with the Budgetary Estimate for 2025-26 with respect to the scholarship schemes is as follows:-

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/Programme	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			BE 2025-26
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp)	BE	RE	Actual Exp.(upto 31 st Dec.,2024)	
1	Pre-matric scholarship	1425.00	556.82	44.04	433.00	400.00	95.84	326.16	90.00	1.55	195.70
2	Post matric scholarship	515.00	515.00	29.00	1065.00	1000.00	85.02	1145.38	343.91	5.31	413.99
3	Merit cum means Scholarship	365.00	358.02	34.90	44.00	25.00		33.80	19.41	3.50	7.34
4	Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students	99.00	99.00	98.85	96.00	54.00	83.45	45.08	45.08	25.00	42.84

3.3 A table of beneficiaries of all communities under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship and Merit-cum Means based Scholarship Scheme for students belonging to the minority communities (2008-09 to 2022-23) are as under:

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme					
Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Parsi	Jain	Buddhist
50817722	7794817	4721019	12238	464039	2157498
Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme					
Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Parsi	Jain
5869596	960040	735436	56331	1230	111033
Metric cum Means Scholarship					

Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Parsi	Jain
1049848	220853	82013	6182	148	32949

3.4 On being enquired about the reasons due to which allocations on Pre-Matric Scheme, Post-matric scheme, Merit cum means scholarship and Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority students came down drastically between 2022-23 to 2025-26, the representative of the Ministry during the deliberation informed the committee as under:

“Under the scholarship components, we have primarily three scholarships – Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, and Merit-cum Means scholarship schemes. These schemes have been since 2007-08.

Regarding these scholarship schemes, approval of the schemes beyond 2021-22 is under consideration. Salient features regarding the scheme, is eligibility criteria. We have 50 per cent qualifying marks. I would like to tell you that our scholarship schemes are being harmonised with OBC scholarships of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding rate, annual parental income, funding pattern, and earmarking for girls. Sir, 30 per cent of scholarships are earmarked for girls. We have introduced a new payment system (Aadhar Payment Bridge System) which was done for 2022-23 renewal scholarship.

As far as budgetary allocation is concerned, everything was smooth till 2021-22, and, then, after that, we are awaiting pending approval from the Cabinet. We have spent some money on the committed liability part. The reason behind the same is this. There were media reports in 2020, and the matter was referred to CBI, and then, we had asked the States to investigate the cases. Five States have taken active action under these cases. If you see here, in Assam, 15 FIRs have been registered and 43 persons have been arrested. Cases are ongoing and we are monitoring it on regular basis.”

3.5 As regards to the need to revise the Scheme and the reasons due to which extraordinary time being consumed in approval of the Scheme, the Ministry in written submission stated that:

“Like Ministry of Minority Affairs, there are other Ministries/ Departments who are implementing similar Scholarship Schemes. While drafting the proposal for approval of the Scholarship Schemes for the period beyond 2022-23, it was felt to harmonize the parameters of the Schemes with similar schemes of other Ministries/ Departments so as to main stream the Scheme. This was attempted for ease of choosing the Scholarship Scheme by an applicant among all the Central Scholarship Schemes.

Meanwhile, irregularities were highlighted during the third party evaluation studies. To plug out such fraudulent elements from the system, Ministry asked the States to take corrective measures including registering FIRs and conduct thorough enquiry. Final report from any of the States are yet to be received. Such closure report along with conclusive corrective measures taken by the States will make it easier to get the scheme approved. In the meanwhile, Ministry also conducted Aadhaar based bio-metric authentication drive for all the applicants for the year 2022-23. This entire process has consumed some time and hence, delayed the approval of Scheme.”

3.6 On being asked about the option available with Ministry for the Minority students who were dependent on the Pre & Post Matric Scholarship Scheme so that the education of such needy students is not disrupted, the Ministry of Minority Affairs *inter-alia* submitted vide written reply that:

“Although, the Pre-Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for Minorities have not been implemented beyond 2021-22, other Scholarship Schemes are open for most of the minority students who also belong to such social categories and communities including minorities.”

3.7 On being enquired about the irregularities etc due to which Minorities are being deprived of Merit cum Means Scholarship, Educational loans for overseas studies and support for students clearing Prelims, the Ministry of Minority Affairs *inter-alia* submitted vide written reply that :

“While implementing the three Scholarship Schemes for Minorities since 2007-08, this Ministry faced the following issues in implementation of the scholarship Schemes:

- Media Reports – A series of articles were published in Nov, 2020 about fake beneficiaries and fake institution getting scholarships in connivance with School, INO and banking correspondent(BC);
- All India Draft Performance Audit (AIPA) for AY 2017-21 highlighted discrepancies /irregularities in Pre & Post Matric Scholarships such as ineligible students getting scholarships, fake and ghost beneficiaries, non-existent/ non-operational schools/ unrecognized institutions, etc.
- In the Impact and Evaluation Study conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) through physical verification of applicants/beneficiaries under MoMA scholarship schemes till AY 2021-22 and 2022-23, some discrepancies/irregularities in the implementation of scholarship scheme were observed.

In view of above and in order to eliminate the unscrupulous elements from the ecosystem of the scheme, an Aadhaar based bio-metric authentication exercise was conducted to check the authenticity of all finally verified applicants of 2022-23 as well as the verifying authorities. Furthermore, it was

also decided to make payment of Scholarships under DBT Mode through Aadhaar Payment Bridge System.

Some more suspicious/doubtful institutes have been observed and are being inspected by various agencies to examine the genuineness of scholarship beneficiaries for 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Nonetheless, efforts are being made to get all 3 scholarship schemes approved from the year 2022-23 and beyond.

The Nai Udaan Scheme providing financial support to candidates who qualify preliminary examinations, was closed as it was ascertained at the time that no other Ministry provides such support to their beneficiaries. However, the Ministry has conveyed approval to the Haj Committee of India, statutory autonomous body under Ministry of Minority Affairs, to start "Haj House Residential Coaching Institute" for providing free coaching to eligible beneficiaries belonging to minority communities."

3.8 On being enquired about the reasons for discontinuation of Maulana Azad National Fellowship, the Ministry of Minority Affairs *inter-alia* submitted *vide* written reply that :

"The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India has been implementing the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme on the lines of the JRF Scheme of UGC and CSIR. The UGC and CSIR Fellowship Schemes are open for candidates of all social categories and communities including minorities. Further, students from minority communities are also covered under National Fellowship Schemes for Scheduled Castes and OBCs implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. In view of the overlap among the aforesaid Schemes - it has been decided to discontinue the MANF Scheme from 2022-23 onward. The existing MANF Fellows will continue to receive Fellowships till the end of their respective tenure, subject to compliance with the extant guidelines."

3.9 On being asked the purpose of allocating funds in 2025-26 for Pre & Post Matric Scholarship Schemes particularly when these schemes are yet to be approved , the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

"The allocation of funds under the schemes were made in anticipation of approval of the scheme. The funds will be utilized as soon as the approval is received."

3.10 The Committee find that the actual expenditure under various educational Schemes was very insignificant in comparison to the budgetary allocation as several Schemes such as ‘Free Coaching and Allied Scheme’, ‘Nai Udaan’, ‘Scheme of Providing Education in Madrasas/ Minorities (SPEMM)’, ‘Maulana Azad National Fellowship’, etc. have been discontinued and Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes are pending for approval since 2022-23. The Committee feel that since the Schemes discontinued were in operation for several years, their sudden discontinuation would deprive the targeted beneficiaries from the benefits of these Schemes. The Committee have no doubt about the intention of the Ministry but strongly desire that the substitutes of these Schemes, even if, at all, available elsewhere, the beneficiaries should be made aware of such Schemes by publicizing them. Further, the Ministry should take necessary measures for the Scholarship Schemes pending for approval as the financial aid provided under these Schemes is very important and any more delay will adversely affect the educational prospects of the students belonging to Minority Communities. The Committee may like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in getting the approvals of these Schemes.

CHAPTER-IV

PRADHAN MANTRI VIRASAT KA SAMVARDHAN (PM VIKAS)

The Ministry has designed an integrated scheme called Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) converging five erstwhile Schemes of the Ministry namely - Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil. PM VIKAS scheme has been planned to be implemented across the following components namely:

- i. Component 1 – Modern Skilling (earlier Seekho aur Kamao scheme)
- ii. Component 2 – Traditional Training (earlier USTTAD scheme)
- iii. Component 3 – Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship (earlier Nai Roshni scheme)
- iv. Component 4 – Education Support (through NIOS) (earlier Nai Manzil scheme).

4.2 PM VIKAS Scheme shall also integrate credit linkages through NMDFC as part of its benefits. To implement this scheme, the Ministry has undertaken multiple consultative meetings with representatives from other Ministries like Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME), and other stakeholders including the Knowledge Partners (NID, NIFT, and EPCH) of the Ministry. The Cabinet approval of the PM VIKAS Scheme enables clearance of the committed liabilities of the earlier Skilling and Education Schemes of the Ministry, which is being processed presently.

4.3 Budgetary allocation under the scheme for the past three years and budgetary allocation for the year 2025-2026 is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/Programme	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			BE 2025-26
		BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp)	BE	RE	Actual Exp.(upto 31 st Dec.,2024)	
1	Skill Development Initiative	235.41	100.00	65.28	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil. Scheme converge into PM VIKAS
2	Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts /Crafts for Development (USTTAD)	47.00	47.00	10.61	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	Nil. Scheme converge into PM VIKAS
3	Hamari Dharohar	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	Nil. Scheme converge into PM VIKAS
4	Nai Manzil	46.00	20.00	7.62	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.00	Nil. Scheme converge into PM VIKAS
5.	Pradhan Mantri Virasat ka Samvardhan(PM VIKAS)	-	-	-	540.00	325.86	209.42	500	230.00	124.08	517.29

4.4 On being asked about the reasons due to which funds allocated under the Scheme for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 could not be fully utilized and the roadmap prepared to utilize the allocated funds during 2025-26, the Committee were informed *vide* written reply that:

“Considering the recommendations received from third-party evaluation agencies and NITI Aayog, the key skill development/ skill development/ leadership/ education support schemes of this Ministry namely Seekho Aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Manzil and Nai Roshni were merged into an integrated scheme called Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).

Only the past liabilities were being cleared under the converging schemes, which are now being processed under PM VIKAS Committed Liabilities head from the FY 2023-24. In this context, under the PM VIKAS Committed Liabilities head, for the year 2023-24, the Revised Estimate was ₹215.98 crores of which actual expenditure was ₹209.42 crores which is 96.96 percent.

Under PM VIKAS scheme head, for the year 2023-24, the Revised Estimate was ₹109.88 against which no expenditure could be made as the scheme did not initiate. Now, the approval of competent authority on Scheme Guidelines of PM VIKAS Scheme has been obtained. The Ministry has received 3 proposals from following organisations under PM VIKAS:

- (i) Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC)
- (ii) State Institute of Hotel Management, Manipur
- (iii) IIT, Kharagpur

The meeting of Screening Committee under PM VIKAS Scheme was held on 12.02.2025 to examine and discuss these proposals. It is expected that the meeting of Empowered Committee Meeting may be organised soon and on ground implementation under the projects may start from April, 2025. Efforts would be made to completely utilise the funds allocated under the Scheme for FY 2024-25 and 2025-26.”

4.5 On being asked about the mechanism available with the Ministry to ensure that the beneficiaries do not suffer after merger of the Schemes and the objective of PM VIKAS scheme are achieved, the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted *vide* written reply that:

“The PM VIKAS scheme guidelines have laid down the mechanism for implementing the scheme only through reputed large scale Minority Community institutions, Industry associations, Institutions of Central and State governments, Central Universities and Institutions of National Importance, with

the intent to improve the quality of delivery, implementation, monitoring and programme outcomes.

Further, the proposal would be invited from the interested and eligible implementing agencies with recommendations from the respective State Governments, where the project is proposed to be implemented, so that the implementation of the project is closely monitored and is in sync with the priorities and goals of the respective States.”

4.6 On being asked whether the new guidelines will make the process of approval of proposals easy and foolproof and the time frame fixed for necessary approvals from Empowered Committee and Screening Committee of PM-VIKAS, the Ministry vide written reply stated that :

“Pursuant to the PM VIKAS scheme guidelines, the Ministry has developed a unified portal to monitor and track each project lifecycle. The mechanism to submit project proposals under the PM VIKAS scheme, is also being developed by the Ministry on the portal itself to ensure an integrated easy approach with standardized and transparent proposal submission process.

The prospective Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) are required to submit proposals under PM VIKAS through the respective State Governments or National Commission for Minorities (in line with scheme guidelines) who shall analyse the project proposals to ensure that the proposals align with the state's specific needs/priority areas and requirements of the minority communities, among others. The proposals shall be forwarded by State Govt./ NCM to the Ministry, accompanied by a letter of recommendation, for consideration of the project proposal by the Ministry under PM VIKAS scheme.

All proposals received by the Ministry shall be evaluated by the PM VIKAS Screening Committee (SC). If the proposal is deemed fit, it shall be further recommended to the PM VIKAS Empowered Committee (EC) for final consideration on approval. The project proposals shall be received on a rolling basis in line with the scheme implementation period.”

4.7 During the deliberation of the Committee, the representative of the Ministry of Minority Affairs submitted as under:

“there are four components of the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS), which run through the entire gamut or spectrum of livelihood from skilling and training, women leadership, entrepreneurship, education, and infrastructure development. So, this is a very holistic scheme which covers the entire spectrum of livelihood and around ten lakh beneficiaries have been impacted by these four schemes in various ways since the inception of the Ministry. So, that is almost one million beneficiaries.

Sir, under PM VIKAS, a new scheme has been introduced. We are trying to implement this scheme and integrate the scheme under the national priorities. We will implement this scheme under the portal of the Ministry of Skill Development. For education, we are going to integrate our portal with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). We also have tie-ups with the National Institute of Design (NID), National Institute of Fashion Technology, and Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.

Sir, if we see the breakup of these four aspects of PM VIKAS, already around 4.6 lakh children have been trained under Seekho aur Kamao. Under USTTAD, 21,000 children have been trained. Under Nai Manzil – a World Bank’s sponsored programme – around one lakh children have been trained. Under Nai Roshni, which is a scheme for women empowerment, around 4.35 lakh women have been empowered and trained.

Sir, if we see the financials, last year, the R.E. was ₹325 crore. We could spend ₹209 crore because new schemes were not implemented. So, we could not spend the entire sum. But this year, out of ₹230 crore, we have spent ₹130 crore and we are very hopeful of spending the entire corpus of ₹230 crore this year. Going forward also, we will be able to spend all the money which is given to us in the R.E.

This is a very important scheme and a very critical pillar of the Ministry which is Pradhan Mantri Educational Empowerment Scheme. “

4.8 The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been implementing Pradhan Mantri Virasaat Ka Samvardhan since 2023-24 by converging five erstwhile Schemes namely ‘Seekho Aur Kamao’, ‘USTTAD’, ‘Hamari Dharohar’, ‘Nai Roshni’ and ‘Nai Manzil’. The Committee find that the Ministry spent ₹83.51 crore out of Revised Estimate of ₹169.00 crore in 2022-23. After the convergence of independent Schemes in PM-VIKAS, the Ministry could spend only ₹209.42 crore out of RE of ₹325.86 crore during 2023-24 and ₹124.08 crore out of ₹230.00 crore upto 31 December, 2024 during 2024-25 to meet the committed liability of 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively, relating to the erstwhile Schemes. The PM-VIKAS Scheme, however, could not be implemented during these years as the guidelines of the Schemes could not be approved. The Committee feel that the Ministry should have timely initiated the proposal for approval of guidelines to avoid the extraordinary delay. The Committee now expect that the guidelines have since been approved, the targeted beneficiaries will not have to wait anymore to avail the benefit of the Scheme. The Committee hope that the approval of the proposal to integrate the portal of the Ministry with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) etc. will not be delayed and the tie up proposed under the Scheme with National Institute of Design(NID), National Institute of Fashion Technology and Expert Promotion Council for Handicrafts will be finalized and executed at the earliest. The Committee would like the Ministry to sanction the proposals received for approval without any delay and take necessary action to ensure that the proposals are approved in a time bound manner. The Committee may like to be intimated of the action taken in this regard.

CHAPTER-V

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKRAM (PMJVK)

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), erstwhile Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) initiated in the year 2008-09, is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme(CSS) being implemented from financial year 2017-18 with the objective to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities in the identified areas for improving the quality of life of the people in these areas. The Minority Concentrated Areas (MCAs) were identified on the basis of concentration of minority population and backwardness in terms of identified indicators. The areas covered under PMJVK were increased from 90 Districts originally, to 308 Districts in 33 States/ UTs *w.e.f.* May, 2018. The scheme has been revised with the approval of the Cabinet in the year 2022 for continuation over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle *i.e.* upto 2025-26. The Scheme is now implementable in all Districts across the Country including all the Aspirational Districts subject to fulfilling of criteria that the place of infra-development under the scheme should have more than 25% Minority Population within the catchment area of 15 kms.

5.2 As per procedure the proposals under PMJVK are recommended by the State Level Committee (SLC) headed by the Chief Secretary of the respective States/Union Territories (UTs) based on demand for infrastructure development in the identified areas. The proposals recommended by the SLC are considered by the Screening Committee(SC) chaired by JS(PMJVK) and then considered and approved by Empowered Committee(EC) chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs after due consultation with the concerned Central Ministries, projects under PMJVK are implemented and managed by concerned State/UT Government/CGOs.

5.3 Education, health, skill development and women-oriented projects are the priority sector under PMJVK. The type of works undertaken under PMJVK include construction of schools, additional classrooms, hostels, computer labs/digital classrooms, science laboratories in schools, drinking water facilities and toilets in schools, colleges, dispensaries, hospitals, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, working women hostels, sports facilities, public/ community toilets etc. The projects are implemented on a fund sharing arrangement between the Centre and the State Government/UT Administration in the ratio of 90:10 for North East States, Hilly States (J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand)/ UTs without Legislation, 100% for UTs without Legislature and 60:40 for all other States/ UTs/ UTs with Legislation. Proposals received from Central Government Organisations are supported 100%.

5.4 The Budgetary Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure for the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 alongwith Budgetary Allocation for the year 2025-26 are as under:

(₹in crore)

2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			BE 2025-26
BE	RE	Actual Exp.	BE	RE	Actual Exp)	BE	RE	Actual Exp.(upto 31 st Dec.,2024)	
1650.00	500.00	222.66	500.00	550.00	189.23	910.90	908.90	618.00	1913.97

5.5 On being enquired about the reasons for under utilization of budgetary allocation during 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, the Committee were informed by the representative of the Ministry of Minority Affairs during the deliberation of the Committee that:

“If you see the budget allocation of PMJVK scheme, in 2022-23 and 2023-24, the percentage of utilisation of RE came down quite substantially. That was basically because of what I told you. The Ministry of Expenditure introduced a new accounting standard. They wanted all the funds which have been released to be accounted for. It was a very substantial amount of money. Around Rs.12,000 crore has been released since inception of the scheme. So, this has helped the Ministry to monitor the scheme better. It delayed the releases for two years, no doubt. Now, we have been through that whole process of accounting for the projects. I am glad to inform you that this time, this year, we have spent almost 70 per cent so far.

5.6 On being asked about the achievements of the Scheme since its inception, and the roadmap for implementation of the Scheme in 2025-26, the Ministry of Minority Affairs inter-alia submitted vide written reply that:

“Details of the project units completed under the scheme, State/UT wise are given as follows:

States/UTs	Units Completed	Approved Cost (Crore ₹)
Andaman & Nicobar	89	14.98
Andhra Pradesh	8,042	72.42
Arunachal Pradesh	10,702	353.58
Assam	1,06,150	1,116.44
Bihar	50,523	992.39
Chhattisgarh	726	30.30
Gujarat	61	4.46
Haryana	2,636	101.35
Jammu & Kashmir	3	0.48

States/UTs	Units Completed	Approved Cost (Crore ₹)
Jharkhand	11,982	221.11
Karnataka	16,629	486.71
Kerala	288	99.25
Ladakh	346	28.21
Madhya Pradesh	1,115	28.90
Maharashtra	28,510	144.53
Manipur	17,716	903.84
Meghalaya	8,539	60.60
Mizoram	3,031	62.53
Nagaland	5	83.14
Odisha	5,987	57.25
Punjab	301	20.12
Rajasthan	10,869	437.62
Sikkim	1,622	60.99
Tamilnadu	69	35.00
Telangana	5,398	215.39
Tripura	28,395	201.58
Uttar Pradesh	1,99,380	2,455.97
Uttarakhand	1,449	191.74
West Bengal	2,90,852	3,185.51

As regards the roadmap for utilization of BE 2025-26 @ ₹1,913.97 Crore, this is to inform that presently the scheme carried a committed liability of over ₹2000 Crore Fresh project proposals are in receipt for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26. States/UTs and CGOs are being provided with training and help for project formulation, preparations of cost abstracts and DPRs and for use of PMJVK portal for online submission of the projects. Regular review meetings are being taken to expedite execution and completion of approved projects in time. The Ministry will be able to utilize all of its BE 2025-26 for PMJVK.”

5.7 As regards to the number of the proposals received /approved during each of the last three years, the Committee were *inter-alia* informed *vide* written reply that:-

“As per the data available in the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the position on Online PMJVK Portal as on 17.02.2025 the status is given below for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25. As regards the year 2022-23, this is to inform being is a transition year for introduction and implementation of SNA Guidelines of Department of Expenditure, for which none of the state was compliant. Further, keeping in view the considerable amount of unspent balances of released central funds with the States, no project proposal were either received or approved during the year.

State	2022 - 23	2023-24		2024-25	
		Received	Approved	Received	Approved
Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	790	10	0	0
Himachal Pradesh		94	78	0	0
Karnataka		54	12	67	15
Ladakh		7	2	0	0
Nagaland		134	4	8	0
Rajasthan		915	7	0	0
Sikkim		154	24	1121	0
Uttar Pradesh		603	603	0	0
Uttarakhand		34	14	0	0
Manipur		0	0	16	0
Maharashtra		0	0	4	2

The reasons for non-approval of the left-out units for the year 2023-24 include incomplete project proposals, non-receipt of the recommendations from the line Ministries / Departments of the Government of India, proposals without all the required documents as per PMJVK' Guidelines, submission of large number of projects by a single State/UT etc.

As regards the year 2024-25 and the year 2025-26, presently the States/UTs and CGOs are submitting the project proposals on the Online PMJVK Portal. The Screening Committee and the Empowerment Committee meetings are scheduled to be held shortly, before close of March 2025 to approve the new projects for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26."

5.8 With regard to the implementation of the Scheme, the representative of the Ministry of Minority Affairs deposed before the committee that:

"Since inception, around eight lakh projects have been completed. Total around ₹12,000 crore have been spent on various infrastructure projects basically which are used by minority communities. In addition of minority communities, other members of the society are also using it. The scheme was reoriented and new guidelines were introduced in 2022-33 which increases the area of implementation. Earlier, it was restricted only to MCDs or MCAs. Now, in any district or any area which has more than 25 per cent population of minorities in a radius of 15 kms., anywhere in India these projects can be implemented. There is a revised procedure for release of funds to the States. The hon. Chairperson raised the issue about the reason why the expenditure has gone down. One of the major reasons is the Department of Expenditure told us that before we give more funds, there must be an accountability. The old funds which have been given should be accounted for. A new accounting standard, which is the

CNA and SNA, has been introduced, which led to a little pause, I would say, in releasing the funds. I am very glad to tell you that most of the accounting issues, most of the infrastructure availability issues have been addressed. This year, we are going to meet the target of the BE.”

5.9 When asked about the measures being taken to ensure that the Scheme is made popular among the people so that the objectives of the Scheme are achieved, the Ministry in a written reply stated that:

“The PMJVK Scheme Guidelines have been provided with adequate provisions for **Awareness and Media Plan** and the Steps are taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs and State Government in accordance with these provisions.”

5.10 The Committee note that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is being implemented since 2017-18 with an objective to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities in the identified areas for improving the quality of life of the people in the Minority concentrated Areas. The Committee find that the areas covered under PMJVK were increased from 90 Districts to 308 Districts in 33 States/UTs w.e.f. May, 2018. On the scrutiny of budgetary allocation, the Committee observed that an actual expenditure of ₹222.66 crore out of ₹500.00 crore (RE) and ₹189.23 crore out of ₹550.00 crore (RE) could only be made due to the introduction of SNA during 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. The Committee are happy to find that the Ministry of Minority Affairs have successfully spent ₹618.00 crore (till 31.12.2024) out of ₹908.90 crore (RE) allocated under the Scheme during 2024-25, since the problems faced due to the introduction of SNA system has now been resolved. The Committee hope that BE for 2025-26 has since been substantially increased to ₹1913.97 crore from ₹910.90 crore in 2024-25, the Ministry should make an action plan to utilize the allocated funds so that they may not be reduced at the RE stage. The Committee would like to recommend the Ministry to popularize the Scheme so that the proposals are received from concerned Organisations and State Governments and take necessary measures to approve the proposals received in a time bound manner. They would also

like to suggest the Ministry to provide the technical and administrative support to the implementing Agencies so that they are able to send complete proposals and the unnecessary delay due to the receipt of incomplete proposals is avoided.

New Delhi
18 March, 2025
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

SHRI P.C MOHAN
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social
Justice and Empowerment

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) HELD ON THURSDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 2025

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room No. '2', Parliament House Annexe- Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Bhasker Murlidhar Bhagare
3. Smt. Vijaylakshmi Devi
4. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
5. Smt. Bag Mitali
6. Shri Rajkumar Roat
7. Shri Matheswaran V.S
8. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
9. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki
10. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava

Rajya Sabha

11. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
12. Shri Narayan Koragappa
13. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam
14. Shri Rameswar Teli
15. Smt. P.T. Usha

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar	Secretary
Ms. Nirupama Kotru	JS&FA
Shri C.P.S Bakshi	Joint Secretary (PM VIKAS & Haj)
Shri Ram Singh	Joint Secretary (PMJVK & Scholarship)
Shri Shersha C. Shaik Mohiddin	Joint Secretary (Waqf)
Shri Daniel E. Richards	Joint Secretary (NCM)
Dr. Abha Rani Singh	CMD, NMDFC
Shri Alok Kumar Verma	Deputy Director General (Jiyo Parsi & Research & Media)
Shri Pawan Kumar	Director (Budget & IFD)
Shri S.P.S Teotia	Director (GA & Waqf)
Shri M.L. Sharma	Director (Establishment & Parliament)

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee and Secretary including officials of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to the sitting of the Committee convened to discuss on Demands for Grants of Minority Affairs for 2022-23. The Chairperson in her opening remarks *inter-alia* drew the attention of the representatives of the Ministry with regard to Budgetary allocation to the Ministry, Slashing down of BE, need to address the deprived section of Minority community, need to augment budgetary provisions for them, scholarship schemes, schemes such as PM-VIKAS, educational loans for overseas students etc. The Chairperson, thereafter, referring to the "Directions by the Speaker" to keep the proceedings of the Committee 'Confidential' till a Report on the subject is presented to the House, asked the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs to introduce her team and give an overview of the subject matter.

3. Thereupon, the Secretary, briefed the Committee about overall performance of the Ministry through Power Point presentation. The following issues were *inter-alia* taken up for discussion at the sitting of the Ministry:

- (i) Budgetary Provisions and Utilization;
- (ii) Educational Empowerment;
- (iii) Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM-VIKAS)
- (iv) Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

4. The Secretary responded to the queries raised by the Members to the extent possible on the above mentioned issues.

5. Before concluding the meeting, the Chairperson directed the Secretary to furnish written replies at the earliest on the issues that could not be replied in the meeting for early finalization of Report. The secretary assured to comply.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting has been kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

(The Committee then adjourned)

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2024-25) HELD ON TUESDAY, 18TH
MARCH, 2025.**

The Committee met from 1030 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson's Chamber,
Room No. 113, E-PHA, Block 'B', Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI P.C. MOHAN - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer
3. Shri Bhaskar Murlidhar Bhagare
4. Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar
5. Shri Chintamani Maharaj
6. Shri Murari Lal Meena
7. Shri Bhojraj Nag
8. Shri Godam Nagesh
9. Shri Rajkumar Roat
10. Shri Matheswaran V. S.
11. Adv. Priya Saroj
12. Shri Sasikanth Senthil
13. Shri Anoop Pradhan Valmiki

Rajya Sabha

14. Smt. Sumitra Balmik
15. Shri Narayana Koragappa
16. Shri Rameswar Teli
17. Smt. P. T. Usha
18. Shri Abdul Wahab
19. Shri Niranjana Bishi

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Mamta Kemwal | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Krishendra Kumar | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the following draft Reports:

(i) XX XX XX XX

(ii) Draft Report on 'Demands for Grants for the year 2025-26' pertaining to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

3. The Chairperson then requested the Members to give their suggestions, if any, on the draft Reports. The Reports were adopted by the Committee without any modifications.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports and to present the same to both the Houses during the ensuing session.

The Committee then adjourned.

XX Does not pertain to this Report

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl.No	Para No.	Observations/ Recommendations
1.	2.6	<p>The Committee note that the actual expenditure of the Ministry of Minority Affairs has gone down considerably during previous years. The Ministry could spend only ₹837.68 crore and ₹1,032.65 crore out of ₹2,612.66 (RE) crore and ₹2,608.93 (RE) crore during the year 2022-23 and 2023-24. The situation did not improve in 2024-25 as the Ministry were able to spend only ₹919.10 crore out of budgetary allocation of ₹3,183.24 crore (BE) by 31 December, 2024. The Committee have been apprised that the Ministry have not been able to spend the budgetary allocation as several Schemes such as 'Free Coaching and Allied Scheme', 'Nai Udaan', 'Scheme of Providing Education in Madrasas/ Minorities (SPEMM)', etc, have been discontinued and PM-VIKAS launched in 2023-24 did not initiate. Further, the amount allocated during 2022-23 to 2024-25 under various Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry could not be spent because these Schemes are under consideration for approval since 2022-23 as they are being harmonised with the Schemes of other line Ministries, viz. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Committee strongly believe that the Ministry of Minority Affairs are making all efforts to achieve the mission of the Ministry by streamlining and strengthening the</p>

		<p>prevailing System so that the deserving Minorities can avail the benefits of the Schemes and the funds are not misused. The Committee feel that the steps taken by the Ministry were necessary in order to harmonize the system with the welfare Schemes of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs and hope that these steps will improve the implementation of the Schemes and enhance the socio-economic condition of six notified minority communities in the country. Since the Ministry of Minority Affairs are in process of streamlining/strengthening the prevailing System, the Committee expect that the necessary approvals will be obtained by the Ministry at the earliest so that the allocated Budget of ₹3,350.00 crore for 2025-26 is fruitfully utilised. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry of Minority Affairs to vigorously pursue with the concerned Ministries/ Departments for the pending approvals and keep the administrative machinery of the Ministry ready for immediate implementation of the Schemes as soon as they are approved.</p>
2.	3.10	<p>The Committee find that the actual expenditure under various educational Schemes was very insignificant in comparison to the budgetary allocation as several Schemes such as 'Free Coaching and Allied Scheme', 'Nai Udaan', 'Scheme of Providing Education in Madrasas/ Minorities (SPEMM)', 'Maulana Azad National Fellowship', etc. have been discontinued and Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes are pending for</p>

		<p>approval since 2022-23. The Committee feel that since the Schemes discontinued were in operation for several years, their sudden discontinuation would deprive the targeted beneficiaries from the benefits of these Schemes. The Committee have no doubt about the intention of the Ministry but strongly desire that the substitutes of these Schemes, even if, at all, available elsewhere, the beneficiaries should be made aware of such Schemes by publicizing them. Further, the Ministry should take necessary measures for the Scholarship Schemes pending for approval as the financial aid provided under these Schemes is very important and any more delay will adversely affect the educational prospects of the students belonging to Minority Communities. The Committee may like to be apprised of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in getting the approvals of these Schemes.</p>
3.	4.8	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been implementing Pradhan Mantri Virasaat Ka Samvardhan since 2023-24 by converging five erstwhile Schemes namely 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'USTTAD', 'Hamari Dharohar', 'Nai Roshni' and 'Nai Manzil'. The Committee find that the Ministry spent ₹83.51 crore out of Revised Estimate of ₹169.00 crore in 2022-23. After the convergence of independent Schemes in PM-VIKAS, the Ministry could spend only ₹209.42 crore out of RE of ₹325.86 crore during 2023-24 and ₹124.08 crore out of ₹230.00 crore upto 31 December, 2024 during 2024-25 to meet the committed liability of 2023-24 and 2024-25,</p>

		<p>respectively, relating to the erstwhile Schemes. The PM- VIKAS Scheme, however, could not be implemented during these years as the guidelines of the Schemes could not be approved. The Committee feel that the Ministry should have timely initiated the proposal for approval of guidelines to avoid the extraordinary delay. The Committee now expect that the guidelines have since been approved, the targeted beneficiaries will not have to wait anymore to avail the benefit of the Scheme. The Committee hope that the approval of the proposal to integrate the portal of the Ministry with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) etc. will not be delayed and the tie up proposed under the Scheme with National Institute of Design(NID), National Institute of Fashion Technology and Expert Promotion Council for Handicrafts will be finalized and executed at the earliest. The Committee would like the Ministry to sanction the proposals received for approval without any delay and take necessary action to ensure that the proposals are approved in a time bound manner. The Committee may like to be intimated of the action taken in this regard.</p>
4.	5.10	<p>The Committee note that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is being implemented since 2017-18 with an objective to develop community infrastructure and basic amenities in the identified areas for improving the quality of life of the people in the Minority concentrated Areas. The Committee find that the areas covered under PMJVK were increased from 90 Districts to 308 Districts in 33 States/UTs w.e.f. May, 2018. On the</p>

		<p>scrutiny of budgetary allocation, the Committee observed that an actual expenditure of ₹222.66 crore out of ₹500.00 crore (RE) and ₹189.23 crore out of ₹550.00 crore (RE) could only be made due to the introduction of SNA during 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively. The Committee are happy to find that the Ministry of Minority Affairs have successfully spent ₹618.00 crore (till 31.12.2024) out of ₹908.90 crore (RE) allocated under the Scheme during 2024-25, since the problems faced due to the introduction of SNA system has now been resolved. The Committee hope that BE for 2025-26 has since been substantially increased to ₹1913.97 crore from ₹910.90 crore in 2024-25, the Ministry should make an action plan to utilize the allocated funds so that they may not be reduced at the RE stage. The Committee would like to recommend the Ministry to popularize the Scheme so that the proposals are received from concerned Organisations and State Governments and take necessary measures to approve the proposals received in a time bound manner. They would also like to suggest the Ministry to provide the technical and administrative support to the implementing Agencies so that they are able to send complete proposals and the unnecessary delay due to the receipt of incomplete proposals is avoided.</p>
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