

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4484
ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITIES

4484. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes and programmes implemented by the Government for the economic empowerment and skill development of religious minorities in the country;
- (b) the details of funds sanctioned and released to the State of West Bengal for implementation of the schemes 'Seekho aur Kamao' (Learn & Earn), Upgrading Skill and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD), 'Nai Manzil' scheme to provide education and skill training to the youth from minority communities and 'Nai Roshni'- Scheme for Leadership Development of minority women; and
- (c) the details of the number of beneficiaries under the said schemes/programmes in Darjeeling Lok Sabha Constituency along with the funds spent thereunder?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a): The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS), a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry which converges five erstwhile schemes viz. Seekho Aur Kamao, Nai Manzil, Nai Roshni, USTTAD and Hamari Dharohar schemes and focuses on socio-economic empowerment of six notified minority communities through the following:

- i. Skilling and Training (Non-traditional and traditional)
- ii. Women Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- iii. Education (through National Institute of Open Schooling)
- iv. Infrastructure Development (through Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram)

The scheme also has provisions to facilitate credit linkages by connecting beneficiaries with loan programs offered by the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

Under the PM VIKAS Scheme, the Ministry also organizes 'LokS amvardhan Parv' which provides artisans with a unique opportunity to showcase their indigenous arts, crafts, and rich cultural heritage. The event has been designed not only to promote the traditions of minority communities but also to foster an innovative and entrepreneurial environment for artisans. To enhance their skills in areas like marketing, export & online business, design, taxation and sales etc., workshops are conducted by the Ministry, with support from the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), ensuring a holistic approach to empowering their talent and increasing their income. So far, the Ministry has organised 04 Lok Samvardhan Parvs, as under:

- a. July, 2024 at DilliHaat, INA, New Delhi
- b. January, 2025 at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi
- c. April, 2025 at Convocation Ground, Kashmir University, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
- d. June, 2025 at Gandhi Darshan, Raj Ghat, New Delhi

(b) and (c): The erstwhile schemes of Seekho Aur Kamao, Nai Manzil, Nai Roshni and USTTAD, which have now been converged into PM VIKAS, used to be implemented by Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) empanelled by the Ministry on a project-level basis and not on State-level basis. Accordingly, State/UT-wise or district-wise fund allocation data was not made under these schemes. The Ministry, however, maintained the state-wise number of beneficiaries trained under these schemes. The number of beneficiaries for the state of West Bengal were as follows:

S No.	Scheme	No. of beneficiaries (since inception)
1	Seekho Aur Kamao	32,477
2	USTTAD	1,076
3	Nai Manzil	5,730
4	Nai Roshni	8,850
