

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2457**  
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

**DECLINE IN BUDGET ALLOCATION**

2457. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- a. the reason for a 38 per cent budget cut in the allocation of minority schemes in Financial Year 2023-24, details thereof;
- b. how does the Ministry plan to handle this budget cut without letting it affect the citizens adversely;
- c. the reason for reducing the budget for madrasas from ₹ 160 crore to ₹ 10 crore, details thereof; and
- d. whether Ministry is aware of the implications of such a budget cut, details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, specially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministry of Minority Affairs specifically implements various schemes across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities. These schemes give representation to all weaker segments of society including minorities.

The budget of the schemes of Ministry of Minority Affairs in FY 2022-23 was reduced due to the following reasons:

- i. Adoption of new mechanism for release of Central share of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes, for which State Nodal Agencies (SNA) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNA) were required to be appointed. As per the revised procedure of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, for release of

funds to the State Governments, the releases of funds under PMJVK are not tied to the projects and the amount available in the account of State Nodal Agency (SNA) form a common pool. As on 01.03.2023, the unspent amount with the States in their SNA account is Rs. 2466.48 crore, and the States can incur expenditure from the SNA account to complete the ongoing projects. Due to this, funds could not be released to States.

- ii. Scholarship schemes of the Ministry were to be aligned with the pattern followed by the Education Ministry and other ministries such as Tribal Affairs and Social Justice. Central Government has taken the decision to limit the coverage under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Minorities to only Classes IX and X based on very strong rationale. Firstly, it has been observed that the participation of students from Minority communities is at par with the national average at primary and elementary level. Also, the students at these levels are already covered under Right to Education (RTE) Act. Further, there was a felt need to harmonize the coverage under Pre-Matric Scheme for minorities with similar schemes implemented for other target groups like Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs.
- iii. Skilling schemes under Ministry of Minority Affairs have been amalgamated under the PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS).
- iv. The tenure for implementation of the 'Scheme for providing education to Madrasas and Minorities' was only up to 31.03.2022. The Scheme is under review for continuation or otherwise.

Going by the trend of expenditure in FY 2022-23, it is anticipated that there will be no hindrance in implementation of the schemes due to reduction in budget allocation.

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