

Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education



The Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department is responsible for overall development and welfare of the minority communities in the State. **Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis and Jains** are the minority communities in West Bengal and they constitute more than **about 30 %** of the State's total population.

It is the **commitment of new Government** to provide to the minority communities in the State **better access to education, skill development, employment, social security, housing, healthcare** etc. and ensure their equitable and proper development.

With this vision in mind, the new Government has worked consistently over the last year to achieve a number of significant milestones and has launched a number of new schemes and projects that will have a major contribution towards improvement of overall quality of life, in respect of people belonging to the minority communities in Bengal.

Urdu, Hindi, Oriya, Nepali, Gurumukhi and Santhali speaking people will be identified as Linguistic Minority. A Bill seeking to give recognition to Urdu as second language in districts, sub-divisions, blocks and municipalities where 10% of the population belongs to Urdu speaking community has already been introduced and passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

Imams of Mosques hold a very respectable position in the Muslim community. They play a leading role in mobilization of the community for good purposes including health and hygiene, education and for promotion of various Government schemes. But many Imams in the State are living in a very pitiable state without proper income, housing and educational opportunities for their children due to lack of any initiatives on earlier occasion. It is the commitment of the new Government to take the Imams out of this condition.

Decision has been taken to offer honorarium of **Rs.2,500/= per month to Imams through Wakf Board** on receipt of recommendation in this regard from Task Force for Welfare of Imams. Payment will be made through Bank Account. Similarly, **Moazzins** have also been offered

honorarium of Rs. 1000/- per month through Waqf Board.

Other welfare measures that are being envisaged for Imams include **housing assistance** through the Urban Development Department or the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department in the urban areas and through the *Nijo Griha Nijo Bhumi Prakalpa* of the Land & Land Reforms Department in the rural areas, and **scholarships/stipends to children of the Imams** to pursue studies at all levels including professional courses.

The Government has **finalized the guidelines for grant of minority educational institution** status and pending applications will be suitably disposed very soon.

To give **special thrust to education**, the Government has decided to **grant recognition to ten thousand un-recognised Madrasahs** in the state and actions have already been initiated to achieve the target. **650 posts of teachers have been created for Madrasahs.** Teachers and non-teaching employees of 609 Madrasahs in the state are receiving salary on the first day of the month through banks.

Scholarships and loans are important components of financial assistance and support to students belonging to minority communities. **Since taking over of the new Government, more than sixteen lakh fifty seven thousand students have been provided financial assistance worth more than Rs.269.47 crore under various scholarship/loan schemes.**

Break up of financial assistance is given as under:

1. Incentive for poor girl students of Class IX – XII in Madrasahs

Sector	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12
Financial Achievement (Rs. in Lakh)	745.53	1289.69	1476.09
Physical Achievement	69221	150000	20000 0

2. Pre-Matric scholarship for students belonging to Minority Community

Sector	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12
Financial Achievement (Rs. in Lakh)	638.78	853.62	4445.75
No. of students given scholarships	238271	490718	955205

3. Post-Matric scholarship for students belonging to Minority Community

Sector	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12
Financial Achievement (Rs. in Lakh)	1843.12	2576.50	4687.25
No. of students given scholarships	75660	71226	118441

4. Stipend to meritorious students

Sector	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12
Financial Achievement (Rs. in Lakh)	550	2099.97	1199.90
No. of students given stipend	6593	14000	14597

5. Merit-cum-means based Scholarship for professional and technical courses

Sector	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12
Financial Achievement (Rs. in Lakh)	1454.07	2045.24	1425.41
No. of students given scholarships	5732	6569	5293

During 2012-13, the Government is **considering to cover all eligible students under the pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes and to extend the merit-cum-means scholarship scheme to cover all eligible students pursuing professional courses.** Attention is also being given to improve the infrastructure of the Madrasahs. It is under consideration of the Government to upgrade all High Madrasahs to Higher Secondary (Science) level in the ensuing Five-Year Plan period.

20 acres of land at New Town have been allotted to Aliah University. Steps have been taken for construction of main campus at Newtown. HRBC is entrusted to construct the campus with an amount of Rs.156.00 crore (approx.). Another campus of the university is being constructed at Gorachand Lane by Public Works Department with an estimated amount of Rs.62.00 crore.

Third Haj House is being constructed at New Town. 5 acres of land has been allotted by HIDCO. Construction of 2nd Haj House is complete and is in use. 9783 Haj Pilgrims of West Bengal visited Saudi Arabia to perform obligatory Haj Pilgrimage. Haj Committee, with the help of State Government, provided satisfactory service to the pilgrims for their onward and return journeys.

In connection with implementation of **Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme** for the welfare of minorities, State Level Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary has been formed. Nominated MPs, MLAs, Secretaries of the concerned Departments, Members of nominated NGOs and Members nominated from Panchayati Raj Bodies are members of the said Committee. Due importance is being given in the field of all beneficiary oriented schemes so that at least 25 per cent financial and physical quota is kept and implemented by the concerned Department.

Multi-Sectoral Development Programme designed to address the development deficits, especially in education, employment, sanitation, housing, drinking water etc. has been launched in minority concentrated districts. Under this programme, 24175 IAY houses, 379 Health Centres, 6213 nos. of Tube-well/Hand Pump, 4835 Anganwadi Centres, 3868 Additional Class Rooms (ACR) in Schools and Madrasahs have been made and Rs.454.3 crore has been utilized so far. The Balance work is in progress. Six ITI and two Polytechnics will be set-up in minority concentrated areas of the State under MSDP Scheme.

A new scheme by the name **Integrated Minority Development Scheme** has been introduced in this financial year on the pattern of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme in Minority Concentrated Blocks in non-Minority Concentrating Districts of the State.

Budget of the Department has been enhanced 73% over last year from Rs.330 Crores to Rs.570 Crores.

Skill development, vocational training and loans for self-employment are other focal areas of the new Government for social and economic development of minority communities. More than 10,000 minority youths were given entrepreneurship training recently. 15101 persons given loan involving Rs.10.55 crores in 2011-12

against previous year's 10400 persons involving Rs.8.32 Crores. 12086 persons received training against 8089 persons of previous year. The Government's expenditure for this was hiked to Rs.1.45 Cr. in 2011-12 from Rs. 1.16 crores in 2010-11.

The Government is in the process of setting up an **Employment Bank** for job-seekers of all categories including minority communities. Unemployed educated youth will get access to information of employment opportunities in Government and Private Sectors. Around **10,000 jobs are anticipated to be generated** through the Employment Bank this year.

"Gitanjali" Scheme for construction of dwelling units for Minorities is being implemented in remote areas of North 24 Parganas, Bankura, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas.

To help people access easily various Government schemes and contact officials responsible for their implementation, offices of the Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department, **Minority Bhavan**, are being set up in all the **eighteen Districts**.

Other important achievements for the welfare of minority communities during last one year are:

- o For Printing of Nationalised Text Books of 52350 Children at Primary Rs. 1.31 Cr. spent
- o For School dress of 22500 Girl Students in primary schools Rs. 4.50 Cr. spent
- o For 200 Science Laboratories in Madrasah Rs. 70.02 Lakh spent
- o For Improvement of Libraries, Reading Rooms etc. in 506 Madrasah, Rs. 90 Lakh spent
- o For construction of Common rooms for Girls, Toilets & Drinking Water Facilities in 150 Madrasah, Rs. 3.50 Cr. spent
- o For Support for equipment and furniture of 620 Madrasah, Rs. 2.30 Cr. spent
- o For improvement of Buildings of 150 Madrasah, Rs. 22.25 Cr. spent
- o For Coaching Camp, sports meet in Districts, zonal & state level Rs. 88.95 Lakh was spent
- o For Extension / Renovation of Carmichael / Bekar Hostel for Minorities, Rs. 1.50 Cr. spent.
- o For Skill Development and Employment of Minorities, Rs. 10.52 Cr. spent
- o For Housing (EWS) for Destitute Minority Women (DMWRP), Rs. 3.75 Cr. spent.
- o For Construction of Muslim Students' Hostels, Rs. 4.87 Cr. was spent. All the works are in progress
- o For Empowerment of Minority Women (DMWRP) (Loan disbursement to destitute minority women) Rs. 1.00 Cr. was spent
- o For construction of minority bhabans in districts Rs. 7.00 Cr. has been released

Boundary wall surrounding public graveyards are being constructed to safe-guard the graveyards from encroachment, defilement etc.

6. Boundary Walls surrounding Muslim/Christian Graveyards

Sector	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12
Financial Achievement (Rs. in Lakh)	500	76.28	900
No. of graveyards provided financial assistance	64	13	130

