

Government Plans Related to Ethnic Minorities

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Abstract: *The present paper focuses on the schemes of the government related to minority. It identifies the benefits of the schemes. It also identifies that how these schemes changes the educational and social status of minority. It examines how these rules are implemented. It examines the problems related to implementation of these schemes. It also studies the role of minority institutions for the implementation of these schemes. The paper divided into six sections inclusive of the Introduction. The first section deals with introduction of the paper. Second section deals the meaning and definition of minority. The third section explains the schemes related to minority. The fourth sections deal the challenges and factors affecting to implement scheme. The fifth section discusses the role of minority institution for the empowerment of minority and implementation of schemes. The six and last sections are related with concluding remarks.*

Keywords: minority, government schemes, empowerment, implementation challenges, minority institutions

1. Introduction

Indian society is an umbrella of religion, language, caste and culture. There are various religion, language, caste and culture are present in the society, which makes the differences. These differences makes to India is a unique country. These differences are not only created by the people's lives in the society but it has also created by the geographical and climatic condition of India. The geographical and climatic condition of India is not same North to South and West to East. It has completely different from one part to another. Therefore the language, dress, food, culture and religion are not same in the entire part of India. Therefore India has divided into 28 States and 9 Union territories for better administration and protection of peoples. Indian's people lives in entire part of India but they are not lived equally due to the geographical and climatic condition due to this reason there is diversity in religion, language, caste and culture.

Different types of people live in India by different religions and language. But these people do not live equally in all areas of India. The reason for this is that people who follow one religion and speak one language live more in one part while in the same part people who follow another religion and speak another language keep less. Legally these differences are presented by the terms of “majority” and “minority”. Where people who believe in one religion and language live more, then they have a “majority.” Where people who believe in one religion and language live less, then they have a “minority.”

1.1 Who are the Minorities in India?

The word minority first appeared in the League of Nations [1]. Later in every country and society defined it in its own way and tried to solve the problems related to it in its own way. “The constitution of India uses the word “minority” or its plural form in some Article 29 to 30 and 350A to 350B but does not define it anywhere. Article 29 has the word “minorities” in its marginal heading but speaks of “any sections of citizens.... having a distinct language, script or culture.” This may be a whole community generally seen as a minority or a group within a majority community. Article

30 speaks specifically of two categories of minorities-religious and linguistic. [2] The remaining two Articles 350A and 350B relate to linguistic minorities only”. [3]

Therefore the term “minority” is only used in Indian Constitution, it is not defined in the Indian Constitution or in any statute. Also the word minority is not defined by any International organization, treaty, statute, convention. All these things only explain what does include in minority and what does not include in minority. In India “minority” is recognized on the religion based. Section 2 (c) of the National Commission on Minority empowered the Central Government to recognize is community is minority. [4] Therefore Central Government of India recognizes only six religions is treated as minority which are namely: Muslim, Sikh, Buddh, Christian, Jew, Parsis and Jain.

On January 20, 2014, the Government of India awarded the minority status to the Jain community in India, as per Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act (NCM), 1992 [5]. Though NCM has recommended to Central Government to recognize Jain community to minority but Central Government did not take any action on this recommendation. On the interference of Bombay High Court Central Government had taken action.

Data show that minority communities are socially deprived, economically backward and educationally under privileged in India. [6] But these deprivation, backwardness and under-privilege are not same in all minorities. Some minority community is educationally backward on the other hand some minority is not. Due to this reason the minorities in India have been provided the rights by the Constitution with the purpose that they must be given safety, security and protection, not only that but is this always a fear or apprehension on the part of the minorities that majority may devour them out or the majority shall act in such a way that the minorities should be extinct.

Anita Sable described in her book Supreme Court On Rights of Minorities in India That what are the necessity of minority in India. Which are followings-?

"On this backdrop what are rights which have been provided by the constitution to minorities are substantially full proof to provide them safety, security, stability and development. It is a fact indeed that the minorities which are languishing in poverty are unable to uplift themselves by taking education and thereby improving their educational and economic status. " [7]

Time to time government of India has makes various scheme and programs for the welfare and development of minority. In this Article I will try to explain it.

1.2 Schemes for Welfare of Minorities

The Ministry of Minority Affairs and Central Government of India has made and implemented many schemes for the improvement and development of minorities. The Government has implemented these programs on many levels i. e. educational empowerments level, economical empowerment, infrastructural development, special needs, waqf management, support to Institutions, Prime Ministers' 15 points programs and follow up on Sachar Committee. We are discussed in details about these programs. [8]

1.3 Educational Empowerment

Education is a powerful instrument for development of any society. Education is the way by which any society or country can be changed. In India education level in all community of minority is not equal. Therefore for the development of minority government has focused on the education of minority. For the educational empowerment of minority government has implemented various programmed which are following-

1.4 Scholarship Schemes

Central Government launched various scholarship programs for welfare of minorities. Economically poor people can get benefit of these scholarships and continue his or her education. These programs are three types: [9]

1) Pre-metric Scholarship Scheme:

The object behind the scheme is to encourage the parents form minority communities to: [10]

- Allow their children to school.
- Lessen financial burden of school education.
- To aid the children to success fully complete school education.
- To enhance competitive employment.
- Empowerment.
- Socio-economic development.

2) Post-matric Scholarship Scheme-

Central Government has organized various Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme related to minorities which are following-[11]

- To grant scholarship for weaker sections minority community meritorious students.
- Better opportunities to minority communities students for higher education.
- Increase in the employability.

3) Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme-

Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme organized by Central Government for the welfare of minorities related to all communities. Which are followings-? [12]

- Financial assistance to the needy poor and meritorious of student of minority communities.
- Help the student to pursue professional and technical course.

These are the above mentioned Scholarship programs which help to students belongs to minority community. No doubt these programs help to continues to students who are unable to continuers their study due to lack of money.

1.5 Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF)

Maulana Azad National Fellowship programs are also an educational programs related to minorities. This fellowship programs are available for all minorities. The objective of the Maulana Azad Fellowship Scheme (MANF) is to provide five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from six notified minority communities viz. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh, notified by the Central Government, to pursue M. Phil and Ph. D. The scheme covers all Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). [13]

1.6 Padho Pardesh Scheme

The objective of this scheme is providing subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies for the students belonging to the minority communities. The scheme is to award interest subsidy to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of notified minority communities so as to provide those better opportunities for higher education abroad and enhance their employability. [14]

1.7 Naya Savera

The scheme aims to empower the students belonging to minority communities and prepare them for competitive examinations, so that their participation in government and private jobs improves. The scheme provides financial support for free coaching to notified minority students in selected coaching institutions. It is a Central Government scheme. Therefore it is applicable to all over India. [15]

1.8 Nai Udaan

Government of India, Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing the scheme Nai Udaan-Scheme for Support to Minority Students for preparation of Main Examination, who clear prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, State Public Service Commissions. The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial support to the minority candidates clearing prelims conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission and State Public Service Commissions to adequately equip them to compete for appointment to Civil Services in the Union and the State

Governments and to increase the representation of the minority in the Civil Services. [16]

1.9 Economic Empowerment

Economically empowerment of minority is very important. Unless and until minority cannot economically empowered society cannot go-ahead. Central Government as well as State Government has makes various efforts for the progress and empowerment of minority. Economy is the backbone of every country and society. A country or society cannot run properly unless and until peoples of that society cannot economically empowered. For that purposes government has launched various programmed which are following-

1.10 PM VIKAS (Virasat ka Samvardhan) Skilling and Training Component

Traditional Training sub-component (earlier known as USTTAD and Hamari Dharohar) primarily covers training in need-based courses for minority artisan communities and their family members who are engaged in traditional arts and crafts including languishing art forms. [17]

Non-traditional Skilling sub-component (Seekho aur Kamao)

It would seek to impart skill training, particularly to minorities and artisan families, in NSQF compliant job roles in sectors having linkages with arts and crafts, job roles complementing their existing work, and establish employment linkages for them. [18]

Leadership and Entrepreneurship Component (earlier Nai Roshni)

This component seeks to promote leadership development and basic entrepreneurship primarily among youth from minority communities and artisan families through focused modules. The Entrepreneurship sub-component within this component, aims to exclusively handhold women trained in leadership and basic entrepreneurship on intensive entrepreneurship training. Further, it intends to select aspiring women entrepreneurs, from amongst those trained, to become Business Mentors (to be known as 'Biz Sakhis' in the scheme) and promote establishment of individual or group enterprises for the same. [19]

Education Component (Earlier Nai Manzil)

This component aims to provide education bridge program to school dropouts from minority and artisan communities for pursuing open schooling in class 8th, 10th, and 12th and provide them certification through National Institute of Open School (NIOS) or any other institution (s) approved by MoMA. [20]

USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development)

Ministry of Minority Affairs launches a new scheme, "USTTAD" as 100% Central sector scheme. This scheme will be implemented from 2014-15 onwards during 12th Five Year Plan. There are the following objectives of this scheme-[21]

- To build capacity of master craftsmen/ artisans and training of young generation through the master craftsmen/ artisans for traditional arts.

- Set up standards of identified arts/ crafts and their documentation.
- To establish linkages of traditional skills with the global market.
- To improve employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
- To generate means of better livelihood for marginalized minorities and bring them in the mainstream.
- To enable minorities to avail opportunities in the growing market.
- To ensure dignity of labor.

Concessional credit through National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) were incorporated on 30th September 1994, as a company not for profit, under section-25 of the Companies Act, 2013. It is a National Level Apex Body for the benefit of Minorities as defined under the National Commission for Minorities Act-1992. [22]

Infrastructure Development

Despite of educational and economical development program, government has focused on infrastructure of development so that minorities can achieve all the facilities. Central Government has launched various program under this scheme, which are following-

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is a Scheme designed to address the development deficits of the identified Minority Concentration Areas. Prior to PMJVK, the Ministry implemented Multi-sectoral Development Program since 2008-09. The areas of implementation, under PMJVK, have been identified on the basis of minority population and socio-economic and basic amenities data of Census 2011 and will be known as Minority Concentration Areas. 870 MCBs, 321 MCTs and 109 MCDs which are backward, have been identified. [23]

PMJVK will continue to support the State/UTs in creating infrastructure to improve the quality of life of people and reduce the imbalances in the identified minority concentration areas to be at par with the rest of the country. To further strengthen the program and ensure the benefit reaches the intended beneficiaries, project proposals will also be accepted from Central Government Departments/ Organizations, Central Public Sector Enterprises/ Undertakings, Central/State Universities and Armed Police Forces, apart from the State/ UT governments. Under PMJVK, 80% of the resources would be utilized for projects related to education, health and skill development of which at least 33-4% will be earmarked for creation of assets/facilities for women or girl.

Nai Roshni

This scheme is related for Leadership Development of Minority Women Ministry of Minority Affairs has reformulated the scheme in 2011-12 and renamed it as "Scheme for Leadership objective of Minority Women." The implementation of the scheme started in 2012-13. The objective of this scheme is to empower and instill confidence among minority women, including their

neighbors from other communities inviting in the same village locality, by providing knowledge, tools and technique for interacting with government system, banks and other institutions. [24]

Hamari Dharohar

It is a Central Government scheme. It is launched by the Central Government in the Year 2015. There are the following main objectives of this scheme is-

- The prime objective of this scheme is to preserve and protect the heritage of certain communities. This includes religions like Parsis, Christians, Buddhists, and other such communities.
- Such a curtain of the heritage shall also include the curation of the art and literature that is specific to the particular community. It will also include documents etc.
- The aim of the scheme is also to support the promotion of various forms of expression which are unique to each community such as calligraphy. Therefore the government will help promote such forms of expression.
- The government's aim is also to perform research and help the development of the communities so that much is uncovered about the history of these communities. This will help India learn more about them and it will also help them come into a state of harmony.

Jiyo Parsi-Scheme for Containing Population Decline of Parsis in India

In India as well as worldwide the population of Parsis declined due to late marriages, low fertility rate, having a single child, separation/ divorce, marrying outside the community and emigration, have been identified as some of the main factors leading to these rapidly falling numbers. Parzor Foundation too discovered these and other socio-demographic concerns in studies and research over the years. Keeping all these factors and the skewed birth to death ratio in mind, Parzor approached the Ministry of Minority Affairs and presented the findings of their demographic research projects. [25]

On the recommendation of the Paroze foundation central government launched the scheme of the Jiyo Parsis. Therefore it is the Central Government Scheme. It is launched on 24th September 2013 There were two major components, Medical Support for infertility treatment, Advocacy and Outreach Programs. The Scheme is unique not only to India but also worldwide. It is the first time ever that an intervention on a national scale has been attempted in any country to reverse the demographic decline of a whole community.

Waqf Management

Central Government as well as State Government has makes various scheme for the well fare of minority and their progress which are followings-

Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme (Scheme of Computerization of Records and Strengthening of State Waqf Boards)

There are the following functions of the Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme-[26]

- To advise the Central Government, State Governments, State Waqf Boards on matters concerning the working of the Boards and the due administration of Waqf.
- Monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013 in States and UTs.
- To render legal advice on protection and retrieval of the Waqf Properties and for removal of encroachment etc.
- Implement the Scheme for Development of Urban Waqf Properties & Identification of potential Waqf land for development by National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd.
- Implement Educational and Women Welfare Schemes for skill development and to empower the poor, especially Women.
- To implement the Scheme of Computerization of the State Waqf Boards records, a Central sector scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Seek necessary information from the State Government/Boards on the performance of the State Waqf Boards as per the provision is given in the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2013.
- To take up the Waqf matters with various departments of Central and State Governments such as ASI, Railways, Revenue, and Forest, etc.
- Undertake awareness program to promote the interest of the Council and to sensitize the Waqf institutions about their new roles and responsibilities.

Shahari Waqf Sampatti Vikas Yojana (Scheme for Grants-in-Aid to Waqf Development of Urban Waqf Properties)

It is a central Government Scheme. It is launched by the Central Government for following purpose. With a view to improving the financial position of the auqaf and the Waqf Boards and to enable them to enlarge the area of their welfare work, this scheme has been formulated with a view to protect vacant Waqf land from encroachers and to develop economically viable projects on these properties for generating more income and / or to widen welfare activities.

Under the Scheme, interest free loan is advanced to various Waqf Boards and Waqf Institutions in the country for construction of economically viable building on the Waqf land, such as commercial complex, marriage halls, hospitals, cold storage etc. [27]

Research/ Studies, Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Scheme Including Publicity

There are the following objectives of this research scheme-[28]

- To generate information and database on problems and requirements of Minorities through Operation Research/ Market Research/ Action Research.
- To collect information about development deficits through Baseline Surveys.
- Concurrent Monitoring of schemes being implemented by the Ministry.
- To formulate Annual Media Plan and carry out IEC activities through Multi media campaign involving Print media, electronic media and Outdoor Publicity for dissemination of information to generate awareness

relating to schemes / programs and initiatives for Minorities. 5

- To give wider publicity to Prime Minister's 15 Point Programs for Welfare of Minorities and Multi-sectoral Development Program (MsDP), which are flagship program of this Ministry.
- To support organization for workshops/ seminars/ Conferences on the subjects relevant to minorities.

Support to Institutions

Central Government has support to institution so that they run properly and achieved their goals. Which are following-

- Corpus Fund to Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) .
- Equity to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)
- Grant in Aid Scheme to State Channelizing Agencies of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation.

Prime Minister's 15 Points Program

Prime Minister's New 15 Points Program for the Welfare of Minorities which are given below-[29]

1) Enhancing opportunities for Education

- Equitable availability of ICDS Services.
- Improving access to School Education.
- Greater resources for teaching Urdu.
- Modernizing Madarsa education.
- Scholarship for meritorious students from minority communities.
- Improving educational infrastructure through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation.

2) Equitable share in Economic Activities and Employment

- Self-Employment and Wage employment for the poor.
- Up gradation of skills through technical training.
- Enhanced credit support for economic activities.
- Recruitment to State and Central Services.

3) Improving the conditions of living of minorities

- Equitable share in rural housing scheme.
- Improvement in condition of slums inhabited by minority communities

4) D-Prevention and Control of Communal Riots

- Prevention of communal incidents.
- Prosecution for communal offences.
- Prosecution for communal offences.
- Re-habitation of victims of communal riots.

Follow-up on Sachar Committee

The objectives of the above mentioned scheme is to build capacity of minority by providing skill training support in need-based courses and ensuring employment opportunities for them. To preserves and promote their cultural heritage of minority. To provides education to minority so that they can improve their social conditions. To empower women from families of minority and artisan communities and instill confidence amongst them by providing leadership and entrepreneurship support. To develop model and sustainable art and craft villages, generating livelihood and employment/entrepreneurship opportunities for minorities and artisan communities. [30]

2. Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

For the welfare of minority and the proper implementation of government scheme there should be a proper committee on Ministry/ Department Level, Central Level, State Level and District Level and also there is need of review committee. [31]

Ministry/Department Level

Ministries/Departments implementing the schemes, included in the program shall continue to implement and monitor these schemes with reference to the physical targets and financial outlays. They are expected to review the progress of the program on a monthly basis and report the progress of implementation, in respect of the schemes under this program, on a quarterly basis, by the fifteenth day of next quarter, to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

State/UT Level

States/UTs are expected to constitute a State Level Committee for Implementation of the Scheme for the Welfare of Minorities headed by the Chief Secretary with members consisting of the Secretaries and Heads of Departments implementing the representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions/Autonomous District Councils, three representatives from reputed non-governmental institutions dealing with minorities and three such other members considered appropriate by the state government/UT administration. The Department dealing with Minorities of the State/UT may be made the nodal department for monitoring. The Committee should meet at least once every quarter and the Department dealing with Minorities of the State/UT may send a quarterly progress reports to the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(ii) District Level

Similarly, at the district level, a District Level Committee for Implementation of the Government Scheme for the Welfare of Minorities may be constituted headed by the Collector/Deputy Commissioner of the district, with District level officers of the departments implementing the program, representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions/Autonomous District Councils, and three representatives from reputed institutions dealing with minorities. The District Level Committee shall report progress of implementation to the Department dealing with Minorities of the state government/UT administration for placing it before the State Level Committee.

Central Level

At the central level, the progress of implementation, with reference to targets, will be monitored once in six months by a Committee of Secretaries (COS), and a report will be submitted to the Union Cabinet. The Ministry of Minority Affairs shall be the nodal Ministry to prepare reports in this regard for placing before the COS and the Union Cabinet once in six months. All Ministries/Departments concerned with this program shall submit quarterly reports to the Ministry of Minority Affairs by the 15 the day of the next quarter.

Review Committee

There shall be a Review Committee for the Government Scheme for the Welfare of the Minorities headed by Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, with nodal officers from all the Ministries/Department concerned which shall meet at least once every quarter to review the progress, obtain feedback and resolve problems and provide clarifications, as might be needed.

Making of scheme related to minority is important but it is most important that how these rules are implemented and work. Whether the real benefit reached to real beneficiary or not? There should be above mentioned committee which determine and review time to time the progress and implementation of government scheme on Central as well as State level.

3. Implementation

It is more important to make a rule than it is to implement it. Scheme for minorities in India are made by both Central and State Government. For this reason rules are made from time to time by both the Central and State Government to enforce the rules. It is a big challenge on the government to implement the rules made. Therefore Central Government as well as State Government has taken various step to implement these rules. On practical level various government scheme has implemented. Due to these rules minority's conditions has improved. There is a drastic changes has been occurred in socio-economic condition of minorities. Also drastic changes occurred in educational fields. Minority educational institution has played a vital role in the development of minority. Education is an instrument which changes the society. Central Government has provided various funds to states so that minority's conditions can be improved. Earlier Minority minister Muqtar Abbas Nakbi said the government is implementing various scholarship schemes for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities-Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Muslims, Buddhists, and Parsis under which around 4 crore 52 lakh minority students belong to economically weaker sections have been benefitted. Mr. Naqvi said this is a written reply in the Rajya Sabha [32].

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