

operated under the Department of Minority Welfare from 2011-2012. 942 Hajis were sent to Haj Yatra through the State Haj Committee till 2012. 768 of them are males and 174 are females. The state government has recently adopted a plan to establish a Haj House at Agartala.

G. Tripura Minority Cooperative Development Corporation and Its programmes :

The Tripura Minority Cooperative Development Corporation Ltd. was formed in 1997. The Corporation currently financial assistance by granting loan to youths from the minority community at easy installment conditions for any form of trade or transport business. Besides, it also grants education loans to students from the minority community studying in higher education in technical trades. The Corporation has adopted the plan of granting loan to 500 youths from minority community in the current financial year (2013-2014). 501 youths were benefitted by the scheme from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012 through loans for different trades. 350 were benefitted in 2012-2013. The Corporation has also given education loans to 173 students from the minority community till date.

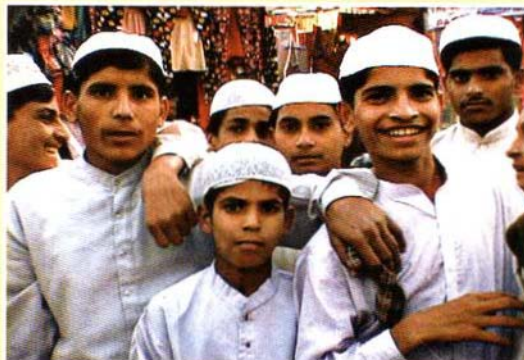


Auto-rickshaw distribution by Tripura Minority Cooperative Development Corporation

Published by Minority Welfare Department, Govt. of Tripura and Printed at CAXTON PRINTERS, J. B. Road, Agartala, Tripura.



MINORITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT



GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

INTRODUCTION

The Government is committed to facilitate progress of the Minority Communities at par with other Communities of the State in the fields of education, culture, literature and Socio-Economic Development. Keeping this in view, a separate Directorate was established in the year 1999. The Tripura Minority Cooperative Development Corporation, Tripura Wakf Board and State Haj Committee are operating under this Department. According to the latest information, population statistics of different Minority Communities of the State are as follows:

Name of Community	Population	Percentage
Muslim	3,44,258	8.60
Christian (Non-Tribal)	2,322	0.06
Buddhist (Non-Tribal)	3,647	0.09
Sikh	34	0.0009
Jain	262	0.007
Total	3,50,523	9.12

Different schemes and Programmes have been set afoot for overall Development of the Communities mentioned above. A brief account of the success of these Development programmes have been stated here.

Identification of areas with Minority Concentrated population:

The State Government has decided to identify villages having large number of minority population and bring them under the coverage of Developmental Programmes. According to the latest statistics of 2012, 124 villages and 27 wards of different Nagar Panchayats and the Agartala Municipal Council have been identified having 20 percent or above of Minority population. The Minority Welfare Department and other concerned Departments are implementing Developmental schemes like improvement of Educational Infrastructure, Economic Development, Road construction, Extension of power transmission lines, extending safe drinking water and irrigation facilities, health centre, maintenance of Wakf properties etc. Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) would be implemented for overall Development of

minority concentrations areas in 12 blocks areas – Kadamtala, Gournagar, Melagarh, Kathalia, Boxanagar, Pecharthal, Dasda, Jampui Hill, Dumburnagar, Chowmanu, Rupaichari, Karbook and Sonamura Nagar Panchayat.

Different Programmes adopted by the Minority Welfare Department:

A. Educational Development Schemes:

The State Government is giving special stress to the issue of Educational Development among students of the minority communities. So, a wide range of stipend and scholarships have been introduced to encourage and help students of the minority communities as follows:

1. Pre-matric scholarship for minority students:

Each student studying in Class VI-VIII is given Rs. 400 annually under this scheme. Students studying in Class IX and Class X are allowed Rs. 500 as annual scholarship in each academic year. Students, whose parents or guardians are having an annual income less than Rs. 44,500, are eligible for this scholarship. Many students were benefitted by this scheme during the last five financial years. 16,866 students of the minority community were benefitted by this scheme in 2008-2009, 21,081 students were benefitted in 2009-2010, 21,170 were benefitted in 2010-2011, 24,383 in 2011-2012 and 25,843 students were benefitted in 2012-2013 by this scheme.

2. Post-matric scholarship for minority students:

Each student studying in Class XI-XII is given Rs. 650 as annual scholarship under this scheme. Students whose parents or guardians are having an annual income less than Rs. 44,500, are eligible for this scholarship. Many students were benefitted by this scheme during the last five financial years. 2,295 students of the minority community were benefitted by this scheme in 2008-2009, 1,741 students were benefitted in 2009-2010, 1,495 were benefitted in 2010-2011, 2,263 in 2011-2012 and 2,142 students were benefitted in 2012-2013 by this scheme.

3. Boarding House stipend for minority students:

Minority students are given Rs. 30/- daily as hostel stipend and Rs. 1/- daily for cleaning of the hostels. Resident students of Fulbari Girls' Hostel and students

of five Madrasas of the State are getting these benefits. Many students were benefitted by this Scheme in the last five financial years. 96 students of the Minority Communities were benefitted by this Scheme in 2008-2009, 141 students were benefitted in 2009-2010, 141 were benefitted in 2010-2011, 256 in 2011-2012 and 401 students were benefitted in 2012-2013 by this scheme.

4. Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Merit Award:

Students from the Minority Community, who pass the Madhyamik and Higher Secondary examinations in first division, are given Rs. 1,500 and a Commendation certificate each under Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Merit Award. This award is given through a programme at Agartala every year. 356 students have got this award from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. 173 students got this award in 2012-2013.

5. Special incentive for Minority girl students:

Girl students of the minority communities studying in Class VI-VIII, those who secure 60 percent marks in the annual examinations, are given Rs. 400 and those, securing between 50 percent to 59 percent are given Rs. 200 cash awards each under this scheme. Girl students of Minority Community studying in Class IX who secure 60 percent marks are given Rs. 700 and those who securing between 50 percent to 59 percent are given Rs. 300 cash awards each under this scheme. Rs. 1,000 cash award for girl students of the community who secure 50% to 59% marks in the Madhyamik examination. 2,661 girl students were benefitted by this scheme from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. 1,173 students were benefitted by this scheme in 2012-2013.

6. Begum Rokeya Merit Award:

The Begum Rokeya Merit Award was introduced from 2012-2013 to facilitate encouragement among Muslim girl students in the academic spheres. Two students – one each from Madhyamik and Higher secondary examinations toppers are felicitated with Rs. 5,000 and a gold medal each under this scheme.

7. Vocational Training in different courses for Minority students:

Nursing Course:

Students of the minority community, who have passed the Higher Secondary Examination, are sent



Kakrban Masjid

outside the state for studying Nursing (GNM). 105 students were trained under this scheme from 2009-2010 to 2011-2012. 89 students have been sent outside the state for GNM training in 2012-2013.

B. Pharma Course:

Students of the Minority Community, who have passed the Higher Secondary Examination, are sent outside the State for studying in the B. Pharma course. 10 students have been sent outside the State for studying in B. Pharma course till 2012-2013 under this scheme.

Training in paramedical course:

8 students have been admitted at the Tripura Institute of Paramedical Science (TIPS) in Agartala in 2012-2013 in different courses of Paramedical Science under this scheme.

B. Economic Development Schemes:

The State Government is implementing the following schemes for economic development of people from the minority communities in Tripura through the Department for Minority Welfare:

1. Settlement scheme for Landless people from Minority Community:

Rs. 50,000 is granted in two installments for construction of dwelling units to poor families from the Minority Community under this scheme. 136 families have been benefitted by this scheme from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. 40 families were benefitted by this scheme in 2012-2013.

2. Minority Village Development Scheme:

Rs. 10,000 is given to poor family from minority community under this scheme for setting up small business, grocery shops, animal husbandry etc. 5,000 families have been benefitted by this scheme from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. 2,000 families were benefitted by this Scheme in 2012-2013.

3. Nucleus Budget Scheme:

Financial Assistance is provided for Medical treatment to the poor Minority patients to bear the cost of medicine etc. under this scheme. A maximum of Rs. 2,500 is given for treatment in hospitals within the State under this Scheme and a maximum of Rs. 5,000 is given for treatment in hospitals outside the State. Rs. 8,000 is given in special cases where patients are referred outside the state for treatment.

C. Centrally Sponsored Scheme(CSS):

The State Government is implementing the following schemes of the Government of India for

1. Pre-matric Scholarship (75:25) :

Students studying from Class I to Class X are eligible for this stipend. Students have to secure 50 percent marks and annual income of their parents or guardians should be less than Rs. 1 lakh to be covered under this scheme. 4,868 students were benefitted by this scheme from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. 3,721 students were benefitted by this scheme in 2012-2013.

2. Post- matric Scholarship (100 percent) :

Students studying from Class XI till Post-Graduate courses are eligible for this stipend. Students have to secure 50 percent marks and annual income of their parents or guardians should be less than Rs. 2 lakh to be covered under this scheme. 1,033 students were benefitted by this scheme from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. 445 students were benefitted by this scheme in 2012-2013.

3. Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship (100 percent) :

Students from minority community, who have secured 50 percent marks in their graduation and have got admission in technical and job-oriented educational courses in any recognized university, are eligible for this scholarship. Parents or guardians of concerned students should have an annual income less than Rs. 2, 50,000. 223 students have been benefitted by this scheme from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. 113 students got this scholarship in 2012-2013.

D. Tripura Wakf Board

Revenue Department of the Government of Tripura formed Wakf Board for the first time in the state in 1979 in accordance with the Wakf Act, 1954. According to the State Government's decision, the Wakf Board would be responsible for maintenance of Wakf properties, recovery of Wakf properties, installation of market stalls for Muslim youths, boundary construction of mosques and graveyards, assisting in vocational training, organizing cultural events etc. and also providing stipend from classes I to V.

Bi-cycle distribution among girl students of minority community for facilitating encouragement:

A scheme of distributing bi-cycles among minority girl students has been set afoot from 2012-2013 to facilitate encouragement among them. 300 girl students of the community were given free bi-cycles accordingly.



Honourable Chief Minister of Tripura distributes bi-cycles to minority girl students

E. Cultural activities :

The Minority Welfare Department, Tripura Wakf Board and the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs jointly organize religious festivals and cultural events of the minority community like Jari-Shari festival, Karbala memorial eve, welcome festival etc.

F. State Haj Committee :

The State Government formed a State Haj Committee in 1985 to properly monitor the Haj Yatra every year and aid the Hajis. The committee is