

‘Progress Panchayat’ initiative of Ministry of Minority Affairs: Minority schemes outreach vehicle

Introduction

Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) introduced an innovative interactive initiative to establish direct communication with minorities and generate awareness about government’s welfare and empowerment schemes for them. In order to increase awareness of minority communities about the available schemes, the Ministry, in collaboration with states, initiated the ‘Progress Panchayat’. These were organized in various places such as Rampur, Uttar Pradesh and Alwar, Rajasthan during 2017-18.

Intervention

Progress Panchayat is a special initiative undertaken by MoMA to review the implementation of central schemes for minorities as well as to increase awareness in MCAs about the various schemes implemented by the Ministry. It is a platform where the government officials, ministers from both Centre and state, as well as the local people come together to interact and discuss implementation status of minority schemes. Issues related to social, educational and economic development of minorities and actions that need to be taken are discussed at this forum. Ground level reports are sought to fulfil the needs of the minorities. During the programme, suggestions are also invited from the people for better implementation of the minority schemes.

Impact

The initiative has given a boost to all the sanctioned works and has successfully established coordination among various states. This has proved to be a milestone for the empowerment of minorities. Through this initiative, recent projects that have been undertaken by the Ministry, such as Sadbhav Mandaps and Hunar Hubs, were popularized as places that would serve as a community centre with toilet facilities and would have facilities for education and skill development, disaster relief, awareness campaigns, sports facility, social and cultural gatherings, and other such events. Various development projects such as schools, hostels, health centers were inaugurated across states. States received positive responses from the people in the Progress Panchayats held in Haryana and Uttarakhand.

Source: Ministry of Minority Affairs