

Part of Speech of the Chief Guest  
Mamaba Banerjee at Workshop 3, Kolkata

My Government has given utmost priority to the development of all ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in the State. The annual budget allocation for the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department has seen almost eight-fold increase over the last six years. Budget allocation to the department has been augmented to an unprecedented Rs. 3,717 crore. Scholarships to the tune of Rs. 4,900 crore have been provided to 1 crore 71 lakh minority students, which is the highest in the country. Loans to the tune of Rs. 1,300 crore have been provided to more than 7.5 lakh minority people towards self-employment. My Government has already fenced over 2,000 burial grounds-something unparalleled across the country. We have enabled vocational courses and job-oriented courses for the youth belonging to the minority communities through the West Bengal Minority Development and Finance Corporation. We are also promoting Urdu language and literature through various literary and cultural activities.