

THREE YEARS OF MODI GOVERNMENT

Govt empowering minorities without appeasement: Naqvi

Minority Affairs Ministry to launch a scheme for artisans from minority communities

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MINORITY AFFAIRS Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Thursday said the NDA government was determined to “empower” minorities “without appeasement” in an “atmosphere of trust”.

The minister, interacting with journalists ahead of the NDA government’s third anniversary, said that “figures from the National Commission for Minorities show that communal incidents have come down by 90 per cent in the last three years. However, not even one incident of such nature should be condoned, that is the view of our government.” His statement came at a time the minorities commission is practically non-existent since February when its last member retired.

The BJP-led government has been accused of creating an atmosphere of fear among minorities and Naqvi was on Thursday



Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi at a press meet in Delhi, Thursday. PTI

asked at the news conference about cow vigilantism. The ruling party, on the other hand, has accused its rivals of practising the politics of appeasement to win votes. “The steps taken by the Modi government for the progress of minorities are a reflection of its empowerment without appeasement policy. It has created an atmosphere of development and trust among the minorities,” PTI quoted Naqvi as saying.

The minister said the govern-

ment has worked to uplift the minorities by providing them education and skill-based training to ensure that they become beneficiaries of mainstream development.

The ministry has decided to launch a programme called Ustad Samman Samagam, marking the birth centenary of Sangh ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, with the aim to encourage artisans from minority communities and offer them market exposure.

The government will also launch Tehreek e Taleem on October 15, he added, to commemorate the birth anniversary of former President A P J Abdul Kalam. The focus of the programme would be on schools in 100 districts and the goals would be teachers, tiffin and toilets.

Naqvi said the previous Congress-led UPA government did not open “even a single” degree college for minorities between 2007 and 2014. On the other hand, the current government has built 33 degree colleges in areas dominated by minority communities population-wise, he said. Between 2007 and 2014, Naqvi said the UPA government set up 72 industrial training institutes, as against 97 opened by the present NDA government since 2014, the minister said.

“The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has distributed financial assistance to 1,08,588 beneficiaries in 2016-17, while 75,966 people were benefited in 2013-14,” Naqvi said.