

Need to provide financial assistance to socially and economically backward students seeking higher education abroad

SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM): To help students from socially and economically backward classes (SC, ST, BC, and EBC) who wanted to pursue higher education abroad, the Andhra Pradesh Government's signature programme, the Jagananna Videshi Vidya Deevana Scheme, was established.

In accordance with this programme, Andhra Pradesh's Government covers the tuition for applicants who are accepted to one of the top 200 universities; it covers the entire cost of a student's tuition if they are admitted to one of the top 100 institutions in the globe, it also pays 50 per cent or Rs. 50 lakh of a student's tuition fees if they are accepted into one of the top 101 to 200 universities in the globe. While these processes have increased the number of students from socially and backward classes seeking higher education overseas, international education is still dominated by students from upper castes, as studying abroad requires a minimum of Rs. 20-25 lakh. Although there are numerous scholarship programmes and financial help schemes, it appears that the establishment of national-level funds solely dedicated to subsidize such students' expenses for higher education outside India is important. As a result, I request the Government to establish National-Level Funds to support Socially and Economically Backward Communities' educational advancement as a primary priority.