

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2568
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2023**

SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF SCs

**†2568. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:
SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:
SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:**

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the Schemes implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Economically Weaker Sections of the society in the country particularly Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and the current year scheme, State and UT-wise;
- (b) the targets set for Jharkhand, Sitamarhi & Bhagalpur in Bihar, Amravati in Maharashtra, Sonapat Parliamentary Constituency in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir under the said Schemes; and
- (c) the achievements made against the target so far in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a) to (c): The focus of the Department's welfare effort is on the requirements of the poorest households as represented by the socially, educationally and economically marginalized sections of the society including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes, Senior Citizens, Victims of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Transgender Persons, Beggars, Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS). The Schemes being implemented by this Department for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Economically Weaker Sections of the society are as below:

1. Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs & Others -This Scheme has two components:

- I. Component 1: Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC students
- II. Component 2: Pre-Matric scholarship for children of parents/guardians engaged in Unclean and hazardous Occupation

2. Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC Students (PMS-SC)

3. Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers SCHEME (SHREYAS)-

The umbrella scheme of "SHREYAS" comprises 4 central sector sub- schemes

- I. Top Class Education for SCs
- II. Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs
- III. National Overseas Scheme for SCs
- IV. National Fellowship for SCs.

4. Pradhan Mantri –Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojana (PM –AJAY)

5. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)

6. Venture Capital Fund for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Castes

7. Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes (CEGSSC)

For Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs & Others and Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC Students (PMS-SC) the State being the implementing agency, targets (physical- No. of beneficiaries and financial- Central Share amount) are provided by the State Governments in their Demand proposal/Annual Action Plan (AAP). In AAP, targets are provided State-wise (not district-wise). Further, these schemes are open ended and demand driven, so Central Government provide scholarships to all the eligible beneficiaries who apply under the scheme. Accordingly, physical and financial targets for FY2023-24 of Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, Haryana and J&K are given in **Annexure - I**.

8. Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) sub-scheme for ‘Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging’ - Annexure-II

9. National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) – Annexure-III.

10. Prime Minister Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India & SHREYAS for OBCs

The Central Government provides eligible central assistance to implementing agencies as per the provision of the scheme. The schemes are as under-

• PM-YASASVI

- i. Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC/EBC & DNT Boys and Girls
- ii. Post- Matric Scholarship for OBC/EBC & DNT Boys and Girls
- iii. Construction of hostels for OBC/EBC & DNT Boys and Girls
- iv. Central Sector Scheme of Top Class Education in College for OBC,EBC and DNT students
- v. Central Sector Scheme of Top Class Education in Schools for OBC,EBC and DNT students

- **SHREYAS**

National Fellowship for OBC students

Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme on Education loans for Overseas Studies for OBC & EBC

The Details of total funds granted, allocated and released for such schemes is as per the **Annexure- IV.**

Refer to part (a) to (c) of the reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2568 for 19.12.2023

Details of the Schemes being implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Economically Weaker Sections of the society

1. Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs & Others

States	Physical targets (No. of beneficiaries)	Financial target (Central Share) (Rs. in crore)
Bihar	5,65,405	61.06
Haryana	Not implementing the scheme	
J & k	21,993	1.47
Jharkhand	61,136	16.50
Maharashtra	1,20,504	27.81

2. Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC

Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC		
States	Physical targets (No. in lakhs)	Financial target (Rs. in crore)
Bihar	1,69,996	69.89
Haryana	86,555	156.37
J & k	11,000	6.75
Jharkhand	59,310	39.03
Maharashtra	4,01,000	646.24

3. SHREYAS (Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers) SCHEME

The umbrella scheme of "SHREYAS" comprises 4 central sector sub- schemes namely "Top Class Education for SCs", "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs", "National Overseas Scheme for SCs" and "National Fellowship for SCs".

I. Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs:

The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them appear in competitive and entrance examinations for obtaining appropriate jobs in Public/Private Sector as well as for securing admission in premier higher education institutions.

Achievements- Expenditure

(Rs. In crore)

Financial Year	Budget	Amount Released/ Expenditure (in Rs.)	%utilization of Budget	No. of the beneficiaries
2020-21	30.00	11.96	39.86	2112
2021-22	50.00	14.98	29.96	1761
2022-23	47.00	18.40	39.14	558
2023-24	47.00	2.82	6.00	71

II. Top Class Education for SCs:

The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education to SC students by providing full financial support for study beyond 12th class till completion of course. The income ceiling is 8 lakhs per annum. Presently, 266 Government/Private institutes are empaneled.

Achievements- Expenditure

(Rs .In crore.)

Financial Year	Budget	Expenditure	% Utilization of Budget	Number of beneficiaries
2020-21	52.00	52.00	100.00	3118
2021-22	70.00	84.00	120.00	4544
2022-23	108.00	85.67	79.32	4171
2023-24	111.00	6.12	5.51	215

III. National Overseas Scheme for SCs:

Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to the selected students from SCs; De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes; landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisan categories, for pursuing masters and Ph.D. level courses abroad. 125 slots are allotted.

Achievements- Expenditure: -

(Rs in Crore)

S. No.	Year	Slots	Candidate Selected	Budget Estimate (In crore)	Revised Estimate (In crore)	Expenditure incurred (In crore)
1	2019-20	100	100	20.00	20.00	28.56
2	2020-21	100	100	20.00	30	32.92
3	2021-22	125	125	30.00	35	49.07
4	2022-23	125	125	36.00	50	86.59
5	2023-24	125	125	50.00	-	47.22 (as on 08.12.2023)

IV. National Fellowship for SC Students:

Under the scheme fellowship is provided to Scheduled Castes students for pursuing higher education leading to M.Phil/ Ph.D degrees in Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences in Indian Universities/Institutions/ Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC). The scheme provides for 2000 new slots per year (500 for science stream and 1500 for Humanities and Social Sciences) who have qualified the National Eligibility Test-Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC and Junior Research Fellows for Science stream qualifying UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) Joint Test.

Performance:**(Rs. in Crore)**

Budget Estimate and Expenditure & Beneficiaries under National Fellowship for SC Students			
Year	Budget Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Fund Released by Ministry (Rs. in crore)	Fellowships awarded
			Total
2019-20	360.00	246.66	2366*
2020-21	300.00	118.99	4841*(merged cycle)
2021-22	300.00	122.39	1932*(merged cycle)
2022-23	173.00	114.25	1612(merged cycle Dec 2021 & June 2022) + 260 (CSIR June 2022)
2023-24	163.00	110.96	945 (UGC NET December 2022 examination) + 828 (June 2023) 1773

*Vacant slots of previous years were carried over & Unspent balance from previous year was utilized

4. **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)**- PM AJAY is SCs centric Scheme wherein central assistance is provided to reduce poverty, to improve socio-economic development of SCs and to increase literacy and encourage enrolment of SCs in Schools and higher educational institutions. Under this Scheme funds are released to State Government/ UTs. Details of funds released in last three years and the current year are as below :

(Rs. In lakh)

Sr.No.	State/UT	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
1	Jharkhand	0.00	6880.00	0.00	0.00	6880.00
2	Bihar	0.00	0.00	5653.50	0.00	5653.50
3	Maharashtra	0.00	1170.05	2861.07	0.00	4031.12
4	Haryana	2146.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	2146.80
5	Jammu & Kashmir	100.00	40.63	0.00	0.00	140.63
Total		2246.8	8090.68	8514.57	0.0	18852.05

5. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)

The scheme is being implemented in two modes. In mode-I, each year a specified number (3000) of meritorious SC students in States/UTs are selected through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and admitted in the best private residential schools affiliated by CBSE/State Boards in classes 9th and 11th. In mode-2, financial assistance is provided to the NGOs for running the schools/hostel projects related to Education sector to Scheduled Caste students. The Scheme broadly covers 3 types of projects namely (i) Residential Schools (ii) Non Residential Schools and (iii) Hostels, both for Primary and Secondary Students.

Details of amount released and beneficiaries under SHRESHTA in last 3 years and this year are as under:

Rs. In Crore					
S. No.	Years	BE	RE	Expenditure	Beneficiaries
1	2020-21	100	125.00	56.05	38250
2	2021-22	200	63.21	38.04	20435
3	2022-23	89	89.00	51.12	16479
4	2023-24 *	104.65	-	52.46	7543

* Till 08.12.2023

6. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes and Backward Castes

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has set up Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes and Backward Castes for providing concessional finance to create wealth and value for society and at the same time enhance direct and indirect employment. In order to boost entrepreneurship and innovation among the SC students / youth (including SC women youths) has launched "Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" under VCF-SC. The aforesaid schemes are operational and applicable throughout the country. The scheme is demand driven and therefore no targets are set for sanction/disbursement for any particular state.

Financial support from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs.15 Crore is provided under VCF-SC, Rs. 20 lakh to Rs.15 crore under VCF-BC and upto Rs.30 lakh under ASIIM.

Till date a sum of Rs. 8.35 crore, Rs. 9.75 crore and Rs. 113.37 crore has been disbursed under these schemes to Bihar, Haryana and Maharashtra respectively.

7. Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes (CEGSSC)

Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for the Scheduled Castes (CEGSSC) provides Credit Guarantee to Member Lending Institutions (Banks) on the Loans sanctioned by them to Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs. Till date entities promoted by 63 SC entrepreneurs have benefitted from the scheme who in turn have provided business and job opportunities. Loans of over Rs. 107.38 crores have been sanctioned by MLIs wherein guarantee of over Rs.70.80 crore has been provided. Till date 5 entities promoted by SC entrepreneurs in Maharashtra have been sanctioned Rs. 7.54 crores of loans by MLIs wherein Guarantee cover of Rs. 5.82 crore has been provided under the scheme.

SMILE-Beggary scheme

Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) sub-scheme for 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recently launched an umbrella scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise", which includes sub-scheme – 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging'. This sub-scheme covers several comprehensive measures including welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development, economic linkages etc. with the support of State Governments/UTs/Local Urban Bodies, Voluntary Organizations, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and institutions and others. The said sub-scheme has been further modified vide recent Guidelines dated 25.10.2023, with view to enhance effective convergence among various schemes of Central Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments.

TARGET GROUPS: Any citizen of India engaged in the act of begging in the country, especially in pilgrimage/religious places, historical, tourist places, big cities/towns and other public places will be covered under the scheme. Priority will be given to women and children engaged in begging

OBJECTIVE: To make the country 'Bhiksha Vritti Mukta Bharat' and make a strategy through coordinated action and convergence with various stakeholders such as Central and State/UT Governments, District Administration, Urban Local Bodies/Municipal Corporations and other stakeholders working in the field and public at large so as to ensure the beggars reintegration in the mainstream society to lead a life with dignity and self-confidence.

COMPONENTS: The scheme consists of the following components -

- i. **Survey and identification of persons engaged in begging:**
 - Survey and identification of persons/beneficiaries shall be carried out by the **Implementing Agencies/VOs/NGOs** as appointed by the Implementing Authorities (State/UT Govt./DMs)
 - A **uniform survey format** has been prescribed for collecting comprehensive and detailed information which will subsequently be used for maintaining a national database.
- ii. **Mobilization of persons engaged in begging:**

After the survey, the Implementing Agencies/VOs/NGOs will undertake outreach work, awareness campaigns to **mobilize the persons** engaged in begging to avail the services available in the Shelter Homes.
- iii. **Shelter-Home:**

Provision of whole range of basic services for the persons engaged in begging such as shelter, rehabilitation, hygiene, food, clothing, bedding, medical facilities, counseling and education will be provided the Implementing Agencies/VOs/NGOs in the shelter-home
- iv. **Rehabilitation:**

To facilitate sustainable settlement through skill development/vocational training to the persons engaged in begging so that they may engage in wage or self employment and reintegrate in the mainstream society and go back to their families.

The scheme would be implemented on pan India basis through State/UT Governments, District Administration, Urban Local Bodies/Municipal Corporations and other organisations/ agencies working in the field of prevention of beggary. Currently the scheme is being implemented in 30 identified cities/towns (States/UTs can be seen at **Annexure-A**).

List of Religious Places/Cities

S. No.	States/UTs	Name of City	Respective religious authority and District/Municipal Administration	District
1	Maharashtra	Trimbakeshwar		Nashik
2	Bihar	Bodhgaya		Gaya

List of Tourist Places/Cities

S. No.	States/UTs	Name of City	District
1	Jammu and Kashmir	Sri Nagar	Sri Nagar

List of Historical Places/Cities

S. No.	States/UTs	Name of Place	District
1	Haryana	Panchkula	Panchkula

Annexure-III

National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC), an Apex Corporation under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India is working for the socio-economic upliftment of its target group comprising of Safai Karamcharis (including wastepickers), Manual Scavengers and their dependents through its various loan and non-loan based schemes.

NSKFDC provides financial assistance at concessional rates of interest to its target group under its various loan schemes for various income generating activities.

The details of the funds disbursed & beneficiaries covered under various loan schemes of NSKFDC are as under:

(Rs. in Lac)

State	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24 (as on 30.11.2023)	
	Fin.	Bene.	Fin.	Bene.	Fin.	Bene.	Fin.	Bene.
Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Bihar	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Maharashtra	0.00	0	0.00	0	300.80	205	846.00	127
Haryana	40.14	38	34.66	36	38.89	42	14.04	17
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0	671.63	241	0	0.00	0.00	0

NSKFDC has been making state-wise notional allocation of funds at the starting of every financial year, however, district-wise targets are set by the concerned states.

**Details of BE/RE financial and Physical from 2014-15 onwards of schemes of BC-I Section
(as on 15.12.2023)**

PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO OBC, EBC AND DNT STUDENTS

SN	Year	BE/RE	Financial (in Cr)	Physical (in lakh)
1.	2014-15	150.00/116.63	109.56	72.81
2.	2015-16	150.00/135.90	120.79	48.67
3.	2016-17	142.00/130.00	129.14	152.05
4.	2017-18	142.00/142.00	128.23	50.94
5.	2018-19	232.00/132.00	121.84	114.81
6.	2019-20	220.00/220.00	201.57	94.52
7.	2020-21	250.00/175.00	165.91	161.80
8.	2021-22	250.00/250.00	218.29	58.62
9.	2022-23	478.00/394.61	361.37	21.727 (provisional)
10.	2023-24	281.00/-	21.86	Data furnished by State/UT with the subsequent year's proposal.

2. Post-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO OBC, EBC AND DNT STUDENTS :

S.No	Year	BE/RE	Financial	Physical (in lakh)
1.	2014-15	785.00/790.13	780.53	44.07
2.	2015-16	885.00/885.00	822.75	44.43
3.	2016-17	885.00/885.00	875.87	39.79
4.	2017-18	885.00/885.00	829.62	39.68
5.	2018-19	1100.00/983.25	1000.46	43.12
6.	2019-20	1360.00/1397.50	1299.33	40.94
7.	2020-21	1415.00/ 1100.00	1159.24	46.075
8.	2021-22	1300.00/1300.00	1320.14	38.04
9.	2022-23	1083.00/1083.00	1005.61	25.55 (provisional)
10.	2023-24	1087.00/-	172.00	Data furnished by State/UT with the subsequent year's proposal.

3. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls :

S.No	Year	BE/RE	Financial (In Crore)	No. of seats
1.	2014-15	---	30.21	2950
2.	2015-16	---	40.29	2800
3.	2016-17	----	40.00	2719
4.	2017-18	40.00/40.00	42.50	600
5.	2018-19	50.00/30.00	36.05	900
6.	2019-20	30.00/30.00	21.29	1750
7.	2020-21	50.00/35.00	31.59	3000
8.	2021-22	30.00/30.00	18.77	2050
9.	2022-23	20.00/20.00	18.80	1800
10.	2023-24	30.00/-	9.42	1146

4. National Fellowship for OBC Students:

S.No.	Year	BE/RE	Financial	Physical
1.	2014-15	11.00/11.00	9.43	-
2.	2015-16	6.20/18.30	18.30	409
3.	2016-17	27.00/27.00	27.00	900
4.	2017-18	40.00/40.00	20.00	910
5.	2018-19	110.00/30.00	30.00	679
6.	2019-20	70.00/52.50	52.50	1192
7.	2020-21	120.00/45.00	33.00	1233
8.	2021-22	100.00/60.00	55.55	1338
9.	2022-23	53.00/53.00	51.32	1570
10.	2023-24	57.00/-	50.90	1596

5. Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) (Masters, M.Phil and Ph.D level.):

The scheme has been implemented w.e.f. 2014-15.

S. No	Year	BE/RE	Financial (in Crore)	Physical
1.	2014-15	6.00/1.00	0.89	173
2.	2015-16	6.60/1.00	0.99	776
3.	2016-17	2.00/3.00	2.90	1000
4.	2017-18	4.30/4.30	19.87	1820
5.	2018-19	10.00/10.00	10.00	3163
6.	2019-20	15.00/26.09	26.09	3296
7.	2020-21	35.00/35.00	32.61	4342
8.	2021-22	30.00/30.00	26.70	6564
9.	2022-23	27.00/27.00	23.98	2734
10.	2023-24	29.00/-	-	-

6. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF TOP CLASS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR OBC, EBC AND DNT STUDENTS (for 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th):

The scheme has been started w.e.f. 2022-23.

S. No	Year	BE/RE	Financial (in Crore)	Physical
	2022-23	83.39	1.84	1275
	2023-24	100.00	-	-

The scheme has been started w.e.f. 2022-23.

7. CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF TOP CLASS EDUCATION IN College FOR OBC, EBC AND DNT STUDENTS:

S. No	Year	BE/RE	Financial (in Crore)	Physical
1	2023-24	90.00	-	-

The scheme has been started w.e.f. 2023-24.
