

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5631

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011

FREE EDUCATION UPTO PH.D. LEVEL

Dashmuni Deepa ;Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Mishra Shri Mahabal ;Singh Shri Ilyaraj

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide free education at graduation level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide free education for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students upto Ph.D. level in Government and Government-aided educational institutions in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b): The question does not arise.

(c) to (e): Central Government through various special schemes is ensuring that a substantial responsibility of higher education for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) is borne by the Government through demand side interventions. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been implementing various schemes for scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for higher studies. The University Grants Commission (UGC) under Ministry of Human Resource Development implements various schemes such as Post-Graduate Scholarships for Students belonging to SCs/STs/ Minorities, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC/ST, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SC/ST. In addition, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been implementing two Education Loan Schemes (ELS) as under:

ELS of National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC); and
ELS of National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)

Central Government has launched a new Central Scheme to provide full interest subsidy during the period of moratorium on educational loans for students belonging to economically weaker section from scheduled bank under the Education Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for pursuing courses of studies in professional/ technical streams from recognized institutions in India.

The Schemes of Post Matric Scholarship to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are under implementation since 1944-45 by the Government of India. The Central Sector Scholarship Schemes of Top Class Education for SC students and ST students aims at recognizing the need to support meritorious SC/ST students who gain admission in identified quality educational institutions, by providing full financial support to the selected meritorious students. The 'National Overseas Scholarships/Passage grant for 'SC candidates' and 'ST candidates' is awarded for higher studies abroad in specific fields of Engineering, Technology, and Science and covers cost of tuition fee and other educational expenses including maintenance, other grants and travel expenses for various courses at Masters' level, Ph.D. and post Doctoral level.