

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4288
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
SCHEMES FOR POOR AND WEAKER SECTIONS
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to formulate any comprehensive scheme for the academic and economic development of the poor, dalits, backward and economically weaker sections of the society in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a)&(b): The Government has formulated several schemes specifically for educational and economic development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes which inter alia includes schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The details of the schemes are as follows: Schemes for educational development:

Scheduled Castes:

1. Post Matric Scholarship for SC students - The scheme is the single largest intervention by the Government for educational empowerment of Scheduled Caste students. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Caste students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.
2. Pre Matric Scholarship for Children of those engaged in Unclean Occupations - Financial Assistance is provided for pre-matric education to children of the target groups viz. (i) scavengers of dry latrines, (ii) sweepers having traditional links with scavenging, (iii) tanners, and (iv) flayers, (v) manhole and open drain cleaners.
3. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojana - The objective is to provide hostel facilities to SC boys and girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities.
4. Upgradation of merit of SC students - To upgrade the merit of Scheduled Castes students by providing them with facilities for their all-round development through education in residential schools.
5. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for higher education - The scheme provides financial assistance to Scheduled Caste students for pursuing research studies leading to M.Phil, Ph.D. and equivalent research degree in universities research institutions and scientific institutions. The scheme is implemented through University Grants Commission (UGC) and the benefits are comparable to Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowships (SRF) of UGC.
6. Scholarship Scheme for Top Class Education for SC students - Objective of the scheme is to promote quality education amongst SC students, by providing full financial support for pursuing studies beyond 12th class in premier institutions of the country.
7. National Overseas Scholarship - The scheme provides assistance to selected Scheduled Castes, Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic tribes, landless agricultural labours and traditional artisans' students for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and Ph.D programmes abroad in specified fields of study.
8. Free coaching for SC and OBC students - The scheme provides quality coaching for Group A and B examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, the Staff Selection Commission, the Railway Recruitment Boards and the State Public Service Commissions etc.

Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs):

1. Pre Matric Scholarship - The aim of the scheme is to motivate children of OBCs studying at pre-matric stage.
2. Post Matric Scholarship - To promote higher education by providing financial support to OBC students studying at post-matric/post-secondary levels including Ph.D degree.

3. Construction of Hostels – The scheme aims to provide hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education.

Scheduled Tribes:

1. Vocational Training Centres in tribal areas – The main aim is to upgrade the skills of the Tribal youth in various traditional/modern vocations depending upon their educational qualification, present economic trends and market potentials which would enable them to gain suitable employment.

2. Strengthening of education among ST girls in low literacy districts – The scheme aims to bridge a gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women, through facilitating 100% enrollment of tribal girls in the identified Districts or Blocks, more particularly in naxal affected areas and in area inhabited by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

3. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for higher education - The scheme provides financial assistance to Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing research studies leading to M.Phil, Ph.D. and equivalent research degree in universities research institutions and scientific institutions.

4. National Overseas Fellowship – Scheme provides financial assistance to selected SC students pursuing higher studies (Masters, Doctoral and Post Doctoral Levels) in certain specified fields of Engineering, Technology and Science only.

5. Scheme of Top Class Education for ST students – To encourage meritorious ST students for pursuing studies at degree and post degree levels.

6. Post Matric Scholarship, Book Bank and Upgradation of merit of ST students - The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Tribe students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.

7. Top Class Education for ST students - Objective of the scheme is to promote quality education amongst ST students, by providing full financial support for pursuing studies beyond 12th class in premier institutions of the country.

8. Hostel for ST boys and girls – The objective of the scheme is to promote literacy among tribal students by providing hostel accommodation to such ST students who would otherwise have been unable to continue their education because of their poor economic condition, and the remote location of their villages.

9. Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP area – The main objective is to promote and extend educational facilities to Scheduled Tribe students including PTGs. Ashram Schools provide education with residential facilities in an environmental conducive to learning.

Schemes for economic development:

Scheduled Castes:

1. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan- the objective is to give a thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs below poverty line. 100 % grant is given to the States/UTs, as an additive to their Scheduled Caste Sub- Plan.

2. National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) - The broad objective of the NSFDC is to provide financial and other support to beneficiaries for taking up various income generating activities.

3. National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC)-The target groups of the Corporation are 'Scavenger'. The Corporation accords priority to the economic development and rehabilitation of Scavengers and amongst Scavengers, those whose income is below double the poverty line.

Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs):

1. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)- The Corporation provides additional channel of finance to backward classes for economically and financially viable schemes and projects for upgrading the technological and entrepreneurial skills of individuals or groups belonging to backward classes

Scheduled Tribes:

1. Tribal Co-operative Marketing development Federation of India (TRIFED)-TRIEFD is functioning both as a service provider and market developer for tribal products.

2. Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups – Since PTGs constitute the most vulnerable section among Scheduled Tribes, it is imperative that priorities should be accorded for their protection and development, and checking the declining trend of their population. The scheme enables the States to focus on areas that they consider is relevant to their PTGs and their socio-cultural environment. Activities includes housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security including Janshree Beema Yojana or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PTGs, more particularly for the PTGs who are nomadic in nature.

3. Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)-Under the scheme grant is provided to the State Governments based on annual allocation as an additive to the State Plan, for areas where State Plan provisions are not normally forthcoming to bring about economic development to tribals.

4. National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporations - NSTFDC provides financial assistance for Income Generating Scheme for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes.

(c): Question does not arise.