

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5506  
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EBCS CHILDREN  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has any plan to provide financial assistance to the children of Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) in the form of stipend for school and higher education in the country including hostel facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Government has launched a Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational loans availed by all students belonging to economically weaker sections.

Under the Scheme full interest subsidy is provided during the period of moratorium (i.e. duration of a recognised professional course plus 1 year, or 6 months after employment – whichever is earlier) on educational loans availed by all students belonging to economically weaker sections (with parental family income from all sources, less than Rs.4.5 lakh annually) from scheduled banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks Association (IBA).

The interest subsidy shall be linked with the existing Educational Loan Scheme of IBA and restricted to students enrolled in recognized professional courses (after Class XII) in India in Educational Institutions established by Acts of Parliament, other Institutions recognized by the concerned Statutory Bodies, India Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other institutions set up by the Central Government. The scheme is effective from the academic year 2009-2010. It is based solely on income criteria and not social background.

Under the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for college and university students, 82,000 fresh scholarships are available every year for students passing class-XII or equivalent exam, pursuing higher studies in recognised institutes. The income ceiling is Rs.4.5 lakhs per annum. The rate of scholarship is Rs.10,000/- p.a. for graduate level & Rs.20,000/- p.a. for Post Graduate & 4th 5th year of medical and engineering courses.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Muslim communities. Stipend @Rs.50 p.m. is provided to girl students of KGBV.

In addition to above, one lakh scholarships every year @ Rs.500/- per month for students studying in classes IX, X, XI & XII of Government, Government aided & local body schools are given under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)". The scholarship is given to those students who clear the VIII standard examination and enrol in IX standard in Government, Government aided & local body school and whose parental income is not more than Rs.1.5 lakh per annum from all sources. Each State/UT has a fixed quota of scholarships.