

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2899
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR POOR STUDENTS
Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Rama Devi Smt.

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

- (a) whether the children belonging to poor families have to face a lot hardships in getting higher education or any vocational education due to the existing provisions;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has any reliable data to ascertain the number of children belonging to poor families and getting higher education;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no existing provision in any of the Acts, rules or regulations governing the higher education sector, which puts children belonging to poor families into hardship. The entire policy framework laid down by Central Government is actually oriented towards ensuring that no student is denied admission or studies on account of financial wherewithal.

(c) & (d): While no such comprehensive data is maintained centrally, the number of students who benefitted from Interest Subsidy Scheme of Government was 9.50 lakhs in the year 2011-12.

(e): The Government is implementing a Central Scheme to provide full Interest Subsidy for the period of moratorium on Educational Loans taken by students from Economically Weaker Sections under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to pursue Technical/Professional Education in India. The Scheme is based on income criteria. All students belonging to economically weaker sections, with parental family income from all sources, less than Rs. 4.5 lakh annually, are eligible for interest subsidy on education loans obtained under the Scheme.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) "Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education" provides for the States/Union Territories, to bring to the mainstream, children belonging to special focus groups i.e. Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), persons below property line, minority and children with special needs, with special attention to the girls belonging to these groups. Special priority is given to opening/strengthening vocational schools/model vocational schools in identified minority/SC/ST concentrated districts/blocks and States/UTs develop suitable incentives for their participation for which funding provision has been made in the scheme. Enrolment drives, special campuses, provision of special facilities, working in close collaboration with parents and Non Government Organizations (NGOs), etc. are undertaken to ensure participation of special groups in vocational education.