

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4213

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012

REPRESENTATION OF SC/ST STUDENTS IN HIGHER RESEARCH

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

(a) whether the Government has any programmes for improving the skills and capacities of SC/ST students and also unemployed youth to facilitate their entry into the higher research and institutions of national importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their outcome, State-wise; and

(c) whether any programmes are being undertaken by the Government to improve the representation of SC/ST candidates in the institutions where there is no representation or minimal representation and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, the revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Higher Secondary Education is under implementation in the country. The objectives of the Scheme include enhancing the employability of youth through a competency based modular vocational course; to maintain their competitiveness through provisions of multi-entry, multi-exit learning opportunities and vertical mobility/ interchange ability in qualifications to fill the gap between the educated and the employable. Special focus has been given to the children belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the persons Below Poverty Line, Minorities 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 to develop suitable incentives for their participation for which funding provision has been made in the scheme. The measures such as enrolment drives, special campuses, provision of special facilities, working in close collaboration with parents and Non Government Organizations (NGOs), etc. are undertaken to ensure the participation of special groups in vocational education.

The Sub Mission on Polytechnics under the Coordinated Action for Skill Development has been launched with the components viz, setting up of new polytechnics, strengthening of existing polytechnics, construction of women's hostels in polytechnics and scheme of community development through polytechnics (CDTP).

Besides, various other Schemes have also been launched for skill development of the students. These schemes include, Apprenticeship Training to provide practical training to fresh graduate engineers, diploma holders (technicians) and 10+2 Vocational pass-outs to enhance their technical skills; Scheme of Support to Voluntary Agencies to secure extensive as well as intensive involvement of the voluntary sector in the endeavour of the Government to promote functional literacy, skill development and continuing education among adults with three components, namely, State Resource Centres, Jan Shikshan Sansthan and Assistance to Voluntary Agencies; Scheme of Career Oriented Courses to ensure that the fresh graduates have knowledge, skills and aptitude for gainful employment; and Bridge Course in Indian Institutes of technology (IITs) for SC/ST students in an attempt to prepare the students in Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry. On successful completion of the course, the students are offered direct admission to the undergraduate programme in next year against the unfilled reserved seats of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE).

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has a new scheme to grant assistance for the construction of 55 hostels for SC/ST students across the country with a minimum of one hostel in each State during the financial year 2012-13. A grant of Rs. 2 crores will be provided to each eligible institution as Grant- in- aid for constructing the hostel with a capacity of 120 students as per the suggested model plan. Government / Government aided Engineering colleges which have been in existence for the last 5 years and in which more than 150 SC/ST students in all have been studying during the last 3 years, shall be eligible to receive financial assistance under the scheme.

Apart from this, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has formulated the National Policy on Skill Development, which is a guiding document for the implementation of various skill development programmes of the country. The Policy has set a target for the skill development of 500 million persons by the year 2022. The Government has taken the following steps to improve the employability of the persons trained under various schemes being launched by the Ministry of labour and Employment, which include : (a) Training, Counselling and Placement Cells in IITs for placement of the trainees (b) Campus placement organized through placement cells (c) introduction of a subject called Employability Skills in IITs under the Craftsmen Training Scheme(CTS) (d) A management information system to obtain data on a real time basis and to apply corrections wherever needed (e) Upgrading of 1727 Government IITs under various schemes to improve the training infrastructure and trainers' training with the active participation of industries.

The data on enrolment of SC/ST students in higher education for the year 2009-10 is annexed.

(c): National Policy on Education (NPE) – 1986 (as modified in 1992) places special emphasis on the removal of disparities and the equalization of educational opportunity by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far.

Moreover, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which became operational on 1st April 2010, provides for the right of children to free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education in a neighborhood school. The provisions also include the admission of 25% children from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections in class I in private unaided schools.

The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 (came into force w.e.f. 4th January, 2007) provides 15%, 7.5 % and 27% reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizens respectively in certain Central Higher and Technical Educational Institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government.

In order to implement the above Constitutional provisions, policies and Acts, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched various schemes / programmes in the field of school education as well as Higher Education with special focus on the educational development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

At Primary and Secondary stage these Schemes are the Early Childhood Education (ECE), the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme, the Mahila Samakhya Programme, the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, the Scheme for setting up of Model Schools in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) as benchmarks of excellence and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

In Higher Education, Central Educational Institutions like the Central Universities, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Management, the Indian Institutes of Information Technology in uncovered/un-served areas, the Expansion of Polytechnics and the Scheme of setting up of 374 model colleges in districts having GER for higher education less than the national average, have been launched.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) also implements various schemes for educational empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes such as the Establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells (EOC) for SC/ST/OBC/Minorities, Post-Doctoral Fellowships for SC/ST, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC/ST, Post-Graduate Scholarships for SC/ST students in professional courses, Establishment Centres for Studies in Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy, Remedial Coaching Schemes for SCs, STs, OBC (non-creamy layer) & Minorities, Scheme of career oriented courses in universities and colleges, Construction of Women's Hostels for Colleges. The UGC has also issued guidelines to Universities and Colleges for the implementation of the reservation policy of the Government of India.

In addition to this, many other Student Support Programmes like the Construction & Running of Girls' Hostel for Students of Secondary & Higher Secondary Schools, the Construction of Women's Hostel in Polytechnics and Colleges, the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), the National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE), the Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students, the Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Education Loan, the AICTE's Post Graduate Scholarship for GATE qualified have also been initiated.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs have also launched schemes which supplement the efforts of Ministry of Human Resource Development. These schemes are the Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana, the Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas, the Post Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students, the Hostels for SC/ST girls and boys, the Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST Students, the Central Sector Scholarship of Top Class Education for SC/ST students, the National Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST students, Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas and Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution (construction of Eklavya Model Residential Schools is a component of this scheme).