

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:651

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014

HIGHER VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR POOR STUDENTS

Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan;Tadas Shri Ramdas Chandrabhanji

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

- (a) whether the students from the poor and weaker sections of the society are deprived of higher/technical/vocational education due to its high cost;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to curtail the fees of courses of higher/ technical /vocational education especially for the SC/ST/OBCs and Minority students; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF.(DR.) RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): The Government is implementing many Scholarship Schemes like Post Graduate Merit Scholarship for University Rank Holders, Dr D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Dr S. Radhakrishnan Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Junior Research Fellowship, Post Graduate Scholarships to GATE Qualified Students, Scheme of Scholarships for Students from Non-Hindi States, etc. Besides, Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme provides full interest subsidy for Professional & Technical Courses during the period of moratorium i.e., Course Period plus one year or six months after getting job, whichever is earlier, on loans taken by students belonging to Economically Weaker Sections. Also under the Community Development through Polytechnics (CDTP) and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Scheme, trainees are provided skill development training free of cost. Similarly, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) implements the scheme on Tuition Fee Waiver Scheme for Women, Economically Backward and Physically Handicapped Meritorious Students under which, tuition fee waiver is provided to women, economically backward and physically handicapped meritorious students pursuing degree/diploma level technical education. Under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014, inter alia no institution shall charge any fee for an admission test other than an amount representing the reasonable cost incurred by it in conducting such test. In the case of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), fee of various courses is determined by the respective Board of Governors. The Central Government has advised the Institutes to fix the fees keeping in view the economic conditions of the society. The IIMs and IISERs are also providing fee concession and assistance to the students coming from weaker sections. Special Schemes under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan are drawn in consultation with the target groups in respective Centrally Funded Higher Educational Institutions for providing other facilities like books, equipment etc., required for completion of courses which are not covered under the Scholarship schemes.

The following schemes have also been recently launched by the Government-

1. UDAAN is an initiative of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to enable disadvantaged girl students and other students from SC/ST & minorities to transit from school to post-school professional education, especially in Science and Maths. The first flight of UDAAN is to address the lower enrolment of girls in engineering colleges which is currently about 23% girls as against 77% of boys. It aims to reduce the quality gap between school education and engineering education entrance systems by focusing on the three dimensions-curriculum design, transaction and assessment. The CBSE will provide free and online resources to the entire student population with special incentives and support to a thousand selected disadvantaged girls per year.

2. The AICTE scheme PRAGATI (Providing Assistance for Girls' Advancement in Technical Education Initiative) envisages selection of one girl per family where family income is less than 6 lakhs / annum on merit at the qualifying examination to pursue technical education. 4000 girls are expected to get benefit of scholarships available per annum. The scholarship amount is Rs.30,000 or tuition fees or actual whichever is less and Rs. 2000 / month for ten months as contingency allowance.

3. AICTE has decided to award 1000 scholarships per annum under Saksham to differently abled students to pursue technical education based on merit in the qualifying examination to pursue technical education. The scholarship amount would be Rs. 30000 or tuition fees or actual whichever is less and Rs. 2000 / month for ten months as contingency allowance.

