

**Educational development of economically backward classes**

511. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes formulated by Government for educational development of economically backward classes of the country;
- (b) the amount of funds allocated for such schemes; and
- (c) the mechanism in place to ensure proper utilization of funds allocated for such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing following schemes for the economically backward class students:—

- (i) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS): Under this scheme, scholarship is provided to the eligible meritorious students having family income less than ₹ 8.0 lakh per annum, for pursuing higher studies. The amount of scholarship is ₹ 10,000/- per annum for the first three years and ₹ 20,000/- per annum for the fourth and fifth year.
- (ii) Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir (SSS for J&K): Scholarship is provided to the eligible students from the State of Jammu and Kashmir, having family income less than ₹ 8.0 lakh per annum, to pursue higher studies outside the State of Jammu and Kashmir. An amount to the tune of ₹ 1.30 lakh to ₹ 4.00 lakh per annum is provided.

The budget head for both the schemes indicated at (i) and (ii) above is common. BE for the Financial Year 2018-19 is ₹ 339 crore. Out of this, ₹ 139 crore is allocated for Central Sector Scheme for College and University Students and ₹ 200 crore is for Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir.

- (iii) Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS)

Under this Scheme, full interest subsidy is provided during the moratorium period (course period plus one year), on the educational loan up to ₹ 7.5 lakh, taken by the students having annual parental income up to ₹ 4.5 lakh. The BE for the Financial Year is ₹ 2150 crore.

- (iv) Fees Waiving in IITs

In IITs, from the academic year 2016-17, following provisions were made for protecting the interest of the socially and economically backward students while making the payment of tuition fee:—

- (1) The SC/ST/PH students shall get complete fee waiver.
- (2) The most economically backward students (whose family income is less than ₹ 1 lakh per annum) shall get full remission of the fee.
- (3) The other economically backward students (whose family income is between ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh per annum) shall get remission of 2/3rd of the fee.
- (4) All students shall have access to interest free loan under the Vidyalaxmi scheme for the total portion of the tuition fee payable.

Under the Vidyalaxmi Scheme, Interest subvention on the education loans for all students admitted for undergraduate and the five year integrated degree programmes is provided.

For advancement of Economically Weaker Sections of the society, and as per the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act 2019, Government has issued orders providing 10 per cent reservation to EWS categories in admission to educational institutions. This reservation for EWS categories would be provided without disturbing the existing entitlements for SC/ST and OBC categories.

Beside these schemes, (i) Remedial Coaching for SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and Minority Community Students, (ii) Coaching for NET/SET for SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and Minority Community Students, and (iii) Coaching Classes for Entry into services for SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and Minority Community Students are also being given.

(c) The payment for the above mentioned schemes are processed online through PFMS and scholarship/interest subsidy is released through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

#### **Centres for Artificial Intelligence**

512. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the institutions of higher education like IITs have set up centres for Artificial Intelligence in view of increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the courses proposed to be offered in these institutes; and

(d) whether any collaboration is being made with global leaders in Artificial Intelligence and if so, the details thereof?