

educational loan scheme of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Financial allocation under the scheme for the year 2019-20 (Revised Estimate) is ₹ 25 crores.

- (ii) **Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loan for Overseas studies for OBC's and EBC's:** This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment since 2014-15. A TOTAL of 2696 students have benefitted from the scheme. Financial allocation under the scheme for the year 2019-20 (Revised Estimate) is ₹ 26.09 crores.

Educational opportunities for poor students

†1659. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure the admission of poor but deserving students in Government and private universities and schools across the country;

(b) the details of various steps taken to ensure adequate representation and admission of the students from the rural areas with economically weaker background;

(c) whether Government has an Expert Advisory Committee to advise on this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to ensure adequate representation and admission of students from poor economic backgrounds. In this regard, for advancement of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society, and in accordance with the Constitution 103rd Amendment Act 2019, this Ministry has issued instructions providing 10 percent reservation to EWS categories for admission in Central Educational Institutions (CEIs). This reservation for EWS categories would be provided without disturbing the existing entitlements for SC/ST and OBC categories.

The above reservation is being provided from the academic year 2019-20 onwards in Central Educational Institutions, and would help in creating more than 2 lakh additional seats.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years. The Act requires all private schools to reserve 25% of seats to children from poor families.

Further, Samagra Shiksha - an Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education has been launched throughout the country, as an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and it provides for universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning level of children at all levels of school education.

In the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), subsidy is provided to the students enrolled for Under Graduate programmes. Full fee waiver is provided in respect of Scheduled Castes /Scheduled Tribes /Physically Handicapped students and most economically backward students whose family income is less than ₹1 lakh per annum; and two third fee remission to other economically backward students whose family income is between ₹1 lakh to 5 lakh per annum.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing the Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme for welfare of the students from rural areas with poor economic backgrounds. Under the 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.

(c) and (d) The Government is regularly monitoring the creation of seats for EWS categories in the CEIs.

Budget of Central Universities

1660. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget allocated to different Central Universities during last five years, University-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a budget cut of various Central Universities in the last 2-3 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware of the adverse effect of budget cut on research and quality of education in these institutions;