

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1667**  
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2022

**STOPPING OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CLASS I TO VIII**

1667. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:  
SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has decided to stop pre-matric scholarships for minority students from classes I to VIII from 2022-23, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of students who were benefiting from this scholarship scheme;
- (c) the number of students in class IX and X who will benefit from this scheme;
- (d) what has been the annual budget allocation for this scheme in the past five years; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of students or quantum of scholarship under this scheme?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): Ministry of Minority Affairs implements Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for students from weaker economic background belonging to the 6 notified minority communities, namely, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh. The coverage under the scheme has been modified from 2022-23 and made applicable for classes IX and X only as the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. This modification has also been done to harmonize the Scheme with the identical Scholarship Schemes implemented by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(b): 30 lakh Fresh Scholarships per annum were given from Classes I-X under the pre-modified Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme.

(c) & (e): The number of beneficiaries under the modified Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs will be maintained at the same level as the number of beneficiaries of classes IX-X in the pre-modified Scheme.

(d): The annual budget allocation under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme during the last five years is provided in the table below:

| Financial Year | BE (in ₹ Crore) |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 2017-18        | 950.00          |
| 2018-19        | 980.00          |
| 2019-20        | 1220.30         |
| 2020-21        | 1330.00         |
| 2021-22        | 1378.00         |