

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 981
ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024

Expenditure on construction of educational institutions in SC areas

981. **Shri Chandrakant Handore:**

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) the expenditure incurred on construction of secondary, higher secondary, polytechnic and other technical and non-technical institutions of education in Scheduled Castes concentrated areas during the last five years;
- (b) the number of educational institutions constructed and operationalised in those areas during that period; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to promote education among Scheduled Castes population in the country including skill development programmes initiated specifically for Scheduled Castes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) Education is a subject in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and most of the Institutions come under jurisdiction of concerned States and UTs.

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing Samagra Shiksha scheme, effective from 2018-19 which has also been aligned with NEP 2020. Under Samagra Shiksha States and UTs are supported for strengthening of existing government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) database portal and Project Appraisal, Budgeting, Achievements and Data Handling System (PRABANDH) portal.

The Scheme reaches out to girls, and children belonging to SC, ST, Minority communities and transgender. The Scheme also focuses on the identified Special Focus Districts (SFDs) on the basis of adverse performance on various indicators of enrolment, retention, and gender parity, as well as concentration of SC, ST and minority communities.

Proposals for carrying out different activities including constructions and repair of Schools are submitted to this Department as part of Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) and the proposals are appraised and approved by Project Approval Board (PAB) each year.

As per the specific proposals received from the States, total of 304 Schools (including Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools) have been approved out of which 82 Schools have been constructed with an expenditure of Rs. 161.09 Crore in Scheduled Caste Concentrated Districts.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs). KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL). The KGBVs are set up in Educationally Backward Blocks. As on 20.11.2024, a total of 5133 KGBVs are functional with enrolment of 7,11,505 girls (including 1,93,302 Scheduled Caste girls).

As per guidelines made available vide dated 01-04-2018 on E-Utthaan-DAPSC portal of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding earmarking of funds for Development Action Plan for SCs (DAPSAC), the funds @ of 20% are to be earmarked for DAPSC in Department of School Education & Literacy which caters to the Educational needs of Scheduled Castes.

The Department of Higher Education has allocated an amount of Rs. 212.93 crore for Institutions of Higher Education like UGC, CUs, IITs, NITs and other Technical and Non-technical institutions for carrying out different activities including construction of Institutions during 2019-20 to 2024-25 (till October, 2024).

Various initiatives to promote education among Scheduled Castes population in the country has been taken, such as -

- Various fellowship and scholarship schemes for providing financial assistance have been implemented.
- Concessions and age-relaxations are provided to SC/ST/OBC category students in UGC- Junior Research Fellowship.
- Remedial Coaching for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) and Minority Community Students.
- Coaching Classes for Entry into Services for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) and Minority Community Students.
- Coaching Classes for NET/SET for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer) and Minority Community Students.
- Equal Opportunity Centres.

The Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, “Scheme of Polytechnics” to provide financial assistance to States / Union Territories including Scheduled Castes concentrated areas for quantitative expansion of Polytechnics throughout the country, enhancement of women’s participation, and to improve the quality of Polytechnic education in the country.

Under ‘Scheme of Polytechnics’, 295 new polytechnics are being established in un-served and underserved districts all over the country for which financial assistance of Rs. 12.30 crore per polytechnic is provided to the States/UTs all over the country. This assistance is released in phased manner based on the expenditure, physical progress and submission of Utilization Certificates and allied documents. During last five years, Rs. 186.83 crore has been released to the States/UTs for establishment of new polytechnics out of which Rs.15 crore has been released under Scheduled Caste Component (SCSP). A total of 24 polytechnics under ‘Scheme of Polytechnics’ have been fully constructed and operationalized during last 5 years.

Further, the Scholarship Division of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship is implementing the three component schemes of PM-USP Yojana i.e. Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship (CSSS) for College and University Students, Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (SSS for J&K and Ladakh) and Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS) and also PM Vidyalaxmi scheme. All the above schemes intend to promote education among all categories of students including SC students.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing “Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)” a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which consist of three components namely Adarsh Gram, Grant-In-Aid to State/District level projects and Hostel. One of its component namely ‘Hostel’ aims at providing central assistance for construction of new Hostel buildings for Scheduled Castes (SC) Students (separately for Boys and Girls). During the last five years, funds have been sanctioned for construction of 79 hostels.

A Central Sector scheme namely the “Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)” is also being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with an objective to enhance the reach of development intervention of the Government and to fill the gap in service deficient Scheduled Castes (SCs) dominant areas. The Scheme also provides easier access to the bright SC students to study in the best schools in the country, thereby securing their future opportunities.
