

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2194
ANSWERED ON - 19/03/2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES REGARDING PM-AJAY SCHEME

2194. DR K LAXMAN

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the primary objectives of PM-AJAY, and the manner in which scheme integrate its three components to uplift Scheduled Caste communities;
- (b) the progress made under the 'Adarsh Gram' component in 2024, and how Adarsh Villages benefited from the initiative;
- (c) the 'Grants-in-Aid' component contributed to socio-economic development and its impact on beneficiaries so far; and
- (d) the current status of hostel construction under PM-AJAY and the manner it enhance access to higher education for SC students?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented since 2021-22. The Scheme has three components namely (i) 'Adarsh Gram', (ii) 'Grants-in-aid for District/State-level Projects for Socio-Economic betterment of Scheduled Caste(SC) Communities' and (iii) 'Hostel'

The objectives and role of the Scheme are:

- (i) To improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages.
- (ii) To reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment opportunities through skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives.
- (iii) To increase literacy and encourage enrolment of SCs in schools and higher educational institutions by providing adequate residential facilities in quality institutions, as well as residential schools where required, especially in the aspirational districts/ SC dominated blocks and elsewhere in India.

(b) In FY 2024-25, 4,928 villages have been declared as Adarsh Gram and 4,25,821 beneficiaries have been benefited which has led to socio-economic development by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages.

(c) 'Grants-in-aid' Component aims to reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment opportunities through Skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives. Under this component, since 2021-22, 9,549 Projects have been approved and Central Assistance of Rs. 1,219.80 Cr. has been released benefiting 2,01,006 SC beneficiaries.

(d) So far, 866 hostels are sanctioned under the Hostel Component of PM-AJAY covering 69,212 beneficiaries and an amount of Rs.936.27 Crore has been released thereby encouraging students belonging to Scheduled Castes to attain quality education. Out of the total hostels sanctioned, 96 hostels are under construction
