

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1511  
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

**Restoration of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**

1511. SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) What is Ministry's response to the representation dated 07.12.2022 by State Government of Tamil Nadu regarding the restoration of Pre-Matric scholarship scheme for students of all minorities in Classes I to VIII as the withdrawal of the scholarship by the Union Government would impact nearly five lakh poor students in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so details thereof.

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The Union Government has informed the State Government of Tamil Nadu that the removal of coverage of Class I to VIII from Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme is based on cogent reasons. Firstly, the participation of students from minority communities at primary and elementary level is at par with the national average. Secondly, the students at these levels are already covered under the RTE Act 2009. The Act makes it obligatory for the appropriate Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII), to each and every child and no child shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education. Further, there was a need to harmonize the coverage under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for minorities with similar schemes implemented for other target groups like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs.

In view of the above, it has been decided to discontinue scholarship for class I to VIII from the Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme and focus more on the education of children from minority communities, especially girls, at higher classes which would generate better employment opportunities from them.

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