GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 771
ANSWERED ON 29/07/2024

MONITORING AND VERIFICATION OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

771. SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures in place for monitoring and verification of scholarship applications;

(b) the reasons for verification process failing to prevent the alleged embezzlement of funds;

(c) whether Government plans to address the vulnerabilities in the scholarship schemes to prevent such fraudulent activities in the future, if so, details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which Government plans to restore the credibility of the scholarship schemes and regain the trust of the beneficiaries given the extent of fake beneficiaries and institutes identified in various States?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) and (b)**:** The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements 3 Scholarship schemes namely (i) Pre-Matric, (ii) Post-Matric, (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships for the students coming from economically weaker section of six (6) centrally notified minority communities. For the monitoring of scholarship applications, various Management Information System (MIS) and analytical reports are available on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) whereas, two level verification mechanism has also been put in place. First level verification is done by concerned Institute Nodal Officer (INO) and second level by respective scheme nodal Officer at District/ State level. Finally verified applications can also be again re-validated based on the red flags generated on the applications through NSP.

(c) and (d): In order to prevent fraudulent activities, OTP based registration, Aadhaar based bio-metric authentication of applicants and verifying authorities and Aadhaar Payment Bridge System have been introduced. Thus, the system has already incorporated necessary measures to prevent such vulnerabilities and retain the trust of beneficiaries.

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