

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2894
ANSWERED ON 26/03/2025

Free higher education to girl students by Maharashtra Government

2894. # Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni:

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

- a. whether Government of Maharashtra provides free higher education to girl students of Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) and Other Backward Class (OBC);
- b. the number of girl students that have benefitted under this scheme so far and the total amount allocated for this;
- c. whether the Central Government is taking any step to implement such a scheme in other States as well; and
- d. the steps being taken by Government to ensure effective implementation of this scheme and participation of girl students?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) & (b): The Government of Maharashtra has informed that they are providing 100% waiver of tuition fee and examination fee for girl students from academic year 2024-25 whose annual family income is less than or equal to Rs. 8.00 lakh and admitted in Government approved professional courses through Centralized Admission Process (CAP) in Government/ Government-aided / Private Institute. Disbursement of benefit is done through MahaDBT Portal in Aadhar linked Bank account.

The total number of girl students benefitted under this scheme for academic year 2024-25 so far is 2,74,017 and the total amount allocated is Rs. 659.90 Crores.

(c) & (d): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. Various schemes/ projects/ programmes run by the Ministry have been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. NEP 2020 aims to ensure that no child loses opportunity to learn and excel because of the circumstances of birth or background. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes, including providing greater access to women. The Central Government has

taken various measures to promote higher education among the students across the nation including women, such as fee reductions, establishment of more institutes, scholarships, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education.

University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing scholarship scheme “National Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies (NSPG)” to provide scholarship to students pursuing Post Graduate Programs. UGC is also providing fellowships to pursue Ph.D. in all disciplines under UGC NET Junior Research Fellowship and Savitribai Jyoti Rao Phule Single Girl Child Fellowship.

Similarly, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) also offers various scholarships like AICTE Pragati Scholarship Scheme for Women (Degree & Diploma), AICTE PG scholarship Scheme, AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF), AICTE Saksham Scholarship Scheme (Degree & Diploma) and AICTE Swanath Scholarship Scheme (Degree & Diploma). AICTE has also launched the AICTE Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) scheme in June 2024 from the academic year 2024-25 for girls and boys of AICTE approved Institutions.

With a view to improve female enrolment in the Undergraduate Programmes in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), supernumerary seats were created which increased the female enrolment from less than 10% to more than 20%.

Further, to make higher education affordable in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), relaxations in tuition fee of Under Graduate (UG) program is provided not only to the socially weaker section but also to the economically weaker section of the society. This includes complete fee waiver for SC/ST and PwD students & full remission of fee for economically weaker students (whose family income is less than Rs. 1 lakh per annum) and also 2/3rd remission of fee for other economically weaker students (whose family income is between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh per annum).

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the following umbrella schemes for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) and De-notified Tribes (DNTS) Students to pursue higher education:

- (i) PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) for OBC and others.
- (ii) Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for OBC & Others.
