

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3566
ANSWERED ON -02/04/2025

**REDUCED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS**

3566 **Shri Imran Pratapgarhi:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has reduced funding for public schools and higher education institutions in recent budgets, and how does it plan to address concerns over its impact on quality education;
- (b) the measures being taken to ensure adequate financial support for students from economically weaker sections;
- (c) whether Government will outline specific initiatives to expand scholarships for underprivileged students, particularly from marginalized communities; and
- (d) whether it is ensuring that budgetary constraints do not hinder access to quality education and skill development, especially for those relying on Government institutions for their academic and professional growth?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) : The Central Government has increased Budget allocation of Ministry of Education (MoE) from 2021-22 to 2024-25 for various activities of the Ministry.

Year	Budget allocation (in Rs. Crore)
2021-22	93,224
2022-23	1,04,278
2023-24	1,12,899
2024-25	1,21,118

(b) : The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 mandates to ensure good quality elementary education conforming to the standards and norms specified in the schedule of the Act. To support States in implementation of the RTE Act, various provisions like free uniforms and textbooks as RTE entitlements has been given under the integrated scheme of Samagra Shiksha as detailed below:

two sets of uniform for all girls, and children belonging to SC/ST/BPL families in Government schools, up to class VIII	Rs. 600/- per child per annum.
free textbooks as RTE entitlement to all children in Government/local body and Government aided schools, including Madarsas desirous of introducing the State curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs. 250/- per child at the primary level • Rs. 400/- per child at upper primary level

As per Section 12(1)(c), reimbursement is provided for admission of students from economically weaker sections in neighbourhood private unaided schools. The reimbursement is based on per child norms notified by the State/UTs for classes I to VIII subject to a maximum ceiling of 20% of the total approvals by the Project Approval Board (PAB).

Other provisions under the scheme of Samagra Shiksha for financial support for students from economically weaker sections scheme are as follows:

Special Training for age-appropriate admission of out-of-school children (OoSC) – Elementary Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upto Rs.6000 per child per annum for non-residential courses • Upto Rs.20000 per child per annum for residential courses
Support to out of school children of age group of 16 to 19 belonging to socio-economically groups for completing education through NIOS/SIOS	Financial assistance upto Rs. 2,000/- per child per annum
Transport/Escort facility	Rs.6000/ per child per annum upto Class X.
Teaching learning Materials, indigenous toys and games, play based activities	Rs.500 per child per annum
Provision for children with special needs (CwSN)	Rs. 3500 per child per annum
Provision of stipend for CWSN girls	Rs. 200 per month for 10 months, in addition to student component from pre-primary to senior secondary level

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM- JANMAN) has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister for empowering Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) children and community with knowledge and skills for better future and increasing enrolment and retention rates amongst PVTG children. The Abhiyan envisages saturation of basic facilities, including education by adopting whole Government approach in convergence with 9 ministries for 11 interventions. Ministry of Education is one of the participating Ministries in the Abhiyan and PM-JAMAN is being implemented in convergence with Samagra Shiksha scheme of this Department. There is a provision for construction of 500 hostels @ 2.75 Crore per hostel during the period 2023-24 to 2025-26. The financial assistance is provided to States and UTs for implementation of these interventions as per the annual plans submitted by the States and UTs in their respective Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by Project Approval Board (PAB), Ministry of Education in consultation with the States and UTs as per the programmatic and financial norms of the scheme.

(c) : The Government of India implements the 'National Means-cum-Merit scholarship Scheme (NMMSS); a Central Sector Scheme which awards scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue study at secondary stage. Under NMMSS, one lakh fresh scholarships @ Rs.12000/- per annum are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools.

The details regarding number of scholarships sanctioned to beneficiaries under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme during the period 2021-22 to 2023-24.			
S.No.	Financial Year	No. of Scholarships (Fresh +Renewals)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)
1.	2021-22	206794	248.15
2.	2022-23	259524	299.91
3.	2023-24	250089	300.10

The Department of Higher Education (DHE) implements the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS), under which students pursuing higher education in India, including students from marginalized communities get scholarships as per Scheme guidelines.

(d) : The funds are released to the States / UTs and Higher Education Institutions (HEI) under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the department as per the programmatic and financial norms of the schemes.
