

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3166
ANSWERED ON – 20/08/2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF CHINTAN SHIVIR 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

3166 # SHRI BABURAM NISHAD

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has developed a roadmap to implement key recommendations from Chintan Shivar 2025, particularly in education, economic development, social protection and accessibility;
- (b) whether new initiatives have been launched to address challenges in scholarship disbursement and digital access in rural and tribal areas;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to enhance the effectiveness of schemes like PM-AJAY, SEED and NAMASTE, based on feedback received during the Shivar; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

- (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) organizes Chintan Shivar to review implementation of various programmes and schemes, discuss issues and challenges faced by States/UTs in implementing the schemes, share best practices and innovations by the States/UTs as well as suggestions for improvement and way forward. The suggestions given in the Chintan Shivar 2025 were factored into various schemes and best practices were adopted for various sectors for which the Ministry is mandated.
- (b) A Working Group Committee set up by this Ministry for revision of guidelines of Scholarships for Scheduled Castes students, has inter-alia looked into the following issues of scholarships to enhance outreach, achieve access and saturation across the country, and to improve the existing system to enhance efficiency and address emerging challenges:

- i. Auto-apply for renewal of scholarships.
- ii. Digitization of verification processes.
- iii. De-duplication measures.
- iv. Biometric authentication.
- v. Reducing Disbursement Turnaround Time.
- vi. Aligning scholarship timelines with academic calendars.
- vii. Enhancing outreach and awareness.
- viii. Leveraging AI and Emerging Technologies.
- ix. Verification for Non-Domicile students.

(c) & (d) This Ministry has taken several steps to enhance the effectiveness of schemes like PM-AJAY, SEED and NAMASTE. The details are as under -

i. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY):

Under the Adarsh Gram Component of PM-AJAY scheme, the scope of coverage has been expanded to include all eligible villages meeting the selection criteria of having at least 40% Scheduled Caste population and a total population of 500 or more, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of the scheme.

ii. Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED):

An additional 2,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has been sanctioned in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. Coordination with the States has improved significantly, particularly in the opening of bank accounts for SHGs. The number of SHG bank accounts has increased from 1,814 in April 2025 to 3,000 at present. Under the Ayushman Bharat initiative, 4.5 lakh Ayushman cards have been sanctioned across seven States - Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana. Agencies have been hired to facilitate doorstep delivery of cards and organize camps for card distribution.

iii. National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE):

Some of the components of NAMASTE scheme have been modified to further strengthen and ensure effective implementation of the scheme. With a view to advancing the ultimate goal of mechanization and incentivizing private sector stakeholders, a new component of providing upfront capital subsidy to them to procure and deploy mechanized cleaning equipments/vehicles has been added in the scheme. Further, per person upfront capital subsidy for Sanipreneur has been increased to 50 percent of the unit cost.
