

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 929
ANSWERED ON 08/12/2025

PADHO PARDESH SCHEME

929. SMT. RAJATHI:

Will the Minister of Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Padho Pardesh interest subsidy scheme for minority students pursuing higher education abroad has been discontinued from 2022-23, and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme since inception, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has reviewed the impact of discontinuation on access to international education for economically weaker minority students;
- (d) whether Government proposes to introduce an alternative scheme to support minority students seeking higher education abroad; and
- (e) the timeline for reviving or replacing the scheme to ensure continued educational opportunities for minority youth?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e) : Padho Pardesh Scheme was implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India for providing subsidy to minority community students on the interest payable on the educational loan for overseas studies.

The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a PSU under Ministry of Minority Affairs, also provides educational loan for education abroad, at lower rate of interest, exclusively to students belonging to minority communities. It was also observed that benefits of interest subsidy that get accrued to the beneficiaries under the Padho Pardesh scheme were limited and also that there was an apparent overlap with other similar schemes being implemented by other Ministries which are applicable to eligible minority community students as well. In view of the aforesaid overlap, limited benefits and ease of availing education loans on lower rate of interest, the Padho Pardesh Scheme has been discontinued from 2022-23.

The State-wise number of beneficiaries since inception is as annexed.

ANNEXURE

Padho Pardesh Scheme- State-wise number of beneficiaries from 2014-15 to 2021-22									
Sl. No.	States	No. of beneficiaries							
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	93	135	111	74	75	72	91	81
3	Assam	8	9	7	7	7	5	6	1
4	Bihar	3	4	4	2	8	12	11	8
5	Chandigarh	6	7	5	4	5	4	3	2
6	Chhattisgarh	4	10	12	11	11	6	3	1
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
9	Delhi	4	12	12	7	12	20	19	13
10	Goa	2	7	12	8	14	15	13	4
11	Gujarat	23	72	74	91	120	129	103	82
12	Haryana	18	20	16	13	17	15	14	12
13	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	2	2	3	1	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	28	42	36	28	72	80	132	202
15	Jharkhand	1	1	2	0	3	8	8	6
16	Karnataka	88	132	131	129	211	289	275	229
17	Kerala	415	679	688	715	1138	1734	2236	3359
18	Madhya Pradesh	32	73	79	74	101	106	82	51
19	Maharashtra	74	165	220	250	297	322	300	265
20	Manipur	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Meghalaya	5	5	4	1	2	1	0	0
22	Mizoram	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0
23	Odisha	0	1	1	2	5	7	4	5
24	Puducherry	5	7	3	1	5	11	12	9
25	Punjab	116	127	83	58	81	82	59	74
26	Rajasthan	15	24	27	25	37	32	27	24
27	Tamil Nadu	101	130	120	108	147	155	133	108
28	Telangana	4	59	83	57	79	72	63	53
29	Uttar Pradesh	21	35	35	33	31	36	30	15
30	Uttarakhand	4	12	7	5	5	4	12	7
31	West Bengal	6	7	7	6	7	15	19	11
	Total	1083	1779	1781	1711	2495	3238	3656	4622