

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3015**  
**ANSWERED ON – 18/03/2026**

**EMPOWERMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT**

3015. DR. K. LAXMAN

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

(a) the progress made under the Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) for underprivileged students in ensuring timely disbursement of funds and reducing dropout rates with specific data on beneficiaries from Telangana in the last three years;

(b) the status of implementation of Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriage, including the number of couples benefited and awareness campaigns conducted, particularly in Telangana; and

(c) the steps taken to promote entrepreneurship among under-privileged youth through schemes like the Venture Capital Fund for SC/ST/BC, especially in aspirational districts of Telangana?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) implements Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste (PMS-SC) students' through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

Under the PMS-SC, DBT mode was introduced from the year 2021-22 and State of Telangana adopted this mode from the year 2024-25. However, the State has not shared State shared paid data on the National Scholarship Portal during the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25. The release of Central share of PMS-SC scholarship is contingent upon State Government/ Administration of Union Territory to share the State/UT paid data to the National Scholarship Portal.

To ensure wider awareness of the Schemes across the Country and effective utilization of funds, the Department has taken various steps such as placing advertisements in National and Regional Newspapers, running Social Media campaigns and follow up with States/UTs. Also, the Schemes are regularly monitored through National level Chintan Shivirs, Regional Meetings and National Conferences with the stakeholders and State/UT officials.

(b) Dr. Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-caste Marriages and Dr. Ambedkar National Relief to SC/ST Victims of Atrocities Schemes of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has been merged with the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 from 01.04.2023. The number of couples provided incentive under the component of 'Incentive for Inter-Caste marriages' of the Scheme in the State of Telangana during the last three Financial Years (FYs) are at Annexure.

Funds are released by the Department to the State Governments/Administration of Union territories for awareness generation and publicity. Further, the State Government/Administration of Union territory are regularly advised to organize awareness programs such as seminars, workshops, training camps, Sadbhavana Shivirs etc.

(c) The Scheme of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes (BCs), implemented through IFCI Venture Capital Funds Ltd, aims to promote entrepreneurship among SCs and BCs communities by providing concessional finance. Further, the Ministry supports innovative ideas of SC youth with financial assistance up to ₹30 lakh under the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission a Sub-Scheme of VCF-SC from the Year 2020. These Schemes are operational across the country, including the State of Telangana.

To enhance outreach and awareness, initiatives such as webinars, advertisements, presentations, and circulation of brochures in English, Hindi, and Regional Languages are conducted in collaboration with incubation centres and institutions such as IKP Knowledge Park and ASPIRE–Technology Business Incubator, University of Hyderabad, along with Telugu brochures to increase awareness among the target communities.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs also implements the Scheme of Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes (VCF-STs) with the corpus of Rs 50.00 Crore to provide financial assistance to the ST community for undertaking various activities to promote entrepreneurship and innovation through Industrial Finance Corporation of India Venture Capital Fund Ltd. (IFCI VCF Ltd.). This Scheme is being implemented on Pan India basis, including the State of Telangana.

## ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in part (b) in respect of Rajya Sabha unstarred Q. No. 3015 for answer on 18.03.2026 regarding Empowerment of scheduled castes and educational support asked by Dr. K. Laxman.

The number of couples provided incentive under the component of 'Incentive for Inter-Caste marriages' of the Scheme of PCR and PoA Act in the State of Telangana during the last three years.:

<b>S.NO.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of couples</b>
2	2022-23	119
3	2023-24	243
4	2024-25	404

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