

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4294
ANSWERED ON – 01/04/2026

WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES (OBCs)

4294. SHRI A. D. SINGH

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

- (a) the total number of beneficiaries covered under OBC scholarship and loan schemes during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government proposes to revise the income limit for Creamy Layer classification; and
- (c) the measures being taken to ensure equitable distribution of benefits among various OBC communities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the following schemes for the welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs):

1. PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) with the following scholarship components for OBCs, EBCs and DNTs:

- (i) Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students;
- (ii) Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students;
- (iii) Top Class Education in Schools for OBC, EBC and DNT Students; and
- (iv) Top Class Education in Colleges for OBC, EBC and DNT Students.

2. National Fellowship for OBC Students (NFOBC), a sub-scheme under the umbrella Scheme of Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) (OBC & Others).

3. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides financial assistance for income generating activities at a concessional rate of interest to the members of Backward Classes.

4. The Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes promote entrepreneurship among Backward Classes by providing concessional finance at 6% p.a. (5.75% for women and Divyang entrepreneurs). The scheme is operational nationwide and supports private/limited companies owned by eligible entrepreneurs. IFCI Venture Capital Ltd is the fund manager for the scheme.

5. The Vanchit Ikai Samoooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayata (VISVAS) Interest Subvention Scheme is a Central Sector initiative since 2024-25 to provide interest subvention at a uniform rate of 5% on eligible loans taken by Self Help Groups (SHGs) and individual beneficiaries belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for income-generating activities. This scheme is implemented by NBCFDC.

Number of beneficiaries covered under OBC scholarship Schemes, National Fellowship for OBC Students, and lending schemes of NBCFDC during the last three years is attached at **Annexure**.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration in the Department at present.

(c) The above-mentioned Schemes are implemented for all eligible students/ persons belonging to the OBC communities as per the scheme guidelines.

Some of the measures taken by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits among various OBC communities/ effective implementation of the Schemes are:

(i) Onboarding of Scholarship Schemes on the National Scholarship Portal.

(ii) Online end-to-end processing, verification of eligibility credentials through online transactions to ensure greater transparency.

(iii) Awareness campaigns are conducted through electronic and print media, social media platforms, and short films on various schemes. In addition, NBCFDC also undertakes extensive outreach measures by organizing training initiatives and mentoring programmes nationwide to ensure effective implementation of the Schemes

Annexure referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.4294 for answer on 01.04.2026

1. Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students

Years	No. of Beneficiaries (Lakh)
2022-23	25.99
2023-24	18.43
2024-25	20.61

2. Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students

Years	No. of Beneficiaries (Lakh)
2022-23	18.05
2023-24	27.16
2024-25	24.53

3. Top Class Education in Schools for OBC, EBC and DNT Students

Years	No. of Beneficiaries (Actual)
2022-23	1275
2023-24	3177
2024-25	13769

Note: The data is given for the academic year.

4. Top Class Education in Colleges for OBC, EBC and DNT Students

Years	No. of Beneficiaries (Actual)
2023-24	5781
2024-25	14861

Note: The data is given for the academic year.

5. National Fellowship for OBCs.

NFOBC	
Year	Beneficiaries (Actual)
2022-23	1570
2023-24	2009
2024-25	2197

6. The total number of OBC beneficiaries covered under the Lending Schemes of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

Year	No. of Beneficiaries (Actual)
2022-23	1,40,343
2023-24	68,372
2024-25	60,520
