

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -609
ANSWERED ON – 04/02/2026

INCREASE IN THE PROVISION OF LOANS TO SCHEDULED CASTES

609 # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI

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

- (a) the central schemes currently being implemented by Government to provide loans to Scheduled Castes;
- (b) whether the maximum loan limit under these schemes has been increased during the last five years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor; and
- (c) whether the loan limit provided by Government is insufficient in view of rising inflation, if so, the steps being taken to increase the loan limit?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) implements the following schemes for providing financial assistance in the form of loans at concessional rate of interest to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, having annual family income up to Rs.5.00 lakhs for income generating activities, to promote self-employment:-

- i. Micro Finance Scheme
- ii. Term Loan Scheme
- iii. Educational Loan Scheme
- iv. Aajeevika Microfinance Yojana
- v. Udyam Nidhi Yojana

(b) to (c) The existing total project cost limit of Rs.50 lakh per unit, with maximum loan limit of up to Rs.45 lakh under the Term Loan Scheme, is considered adequate, keeping in view that NSFDC caters to SC persons having annual family income up to Rs.5 lakh.

On the basis of suggestions received during various review meetings held by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Parliamentary Standing Committees and Consultative Committee meetings in the recent past, the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) has reviewed its existing schemes. As a result, NSFDC merged or restructured its schemes with a view to rationalizing the number of schemes and making them more demand-driven and effective for the socio-economic development of the target group.

Based on requirement, NSFDC has revised the maximum loan limit under Education loan scheme from time to time during the last five years from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.40 lakh per unit both for studies within India and abroad.
