

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 1252
ANSWERED ON – 29/07/2026

STATE SUPPORT FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS

1252. SMT. SUDHA MURTY

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

- (a) the total number of transgender students who have applied for and successfully received scholarships under the Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme from Class IX through post-graduation since 2022;
- (b) the total number of transgender persons trained nationwide under the Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) initiative since 2022; and
- (c) with reference to the 18 pilot Entrepreneurship Development Programmes launched to train 1,800 transgender persons through the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), the post-training handholding support extended to beneficiaries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

- (a) As on date, no application for scholarship has been received.
- (b) Since 2022, a total of 1056 Transgender persons have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) initiative.
- (c) Post-training handholding support is extended to beneficiaries by the implementing institutes, namely the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (IIED) and the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), after completion of the training.

The support includes:

- (i) Career support: Guidance and follow-up support to facilitate wage employment.
- (ii) Credit linkages: Assistance in preparation of project reports and facilitation of bank linkages for availing institutional credit to establish enterprises. The inclusion of transgender persons under the Reserve Bank of India's Priority Sector Lending guidelines further facilitates access to institutional credit.
- (iii) Self-employment support: Guidance on business planning, enterprise registration, and market linkages for beneficiaries intending to start their own ventures.
- (iv) Enterprise monitoring: Follow-up mentoring and monitoring of enterprises established by beneficiaries, with continued support, wherever required.

The handholding support has enabled several beneficiaries to establish micro-enterprises in sectors such as handicrafts, bakery and food products, beauty and wellness services, and retail trade.
