

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2734
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026

DISCONTINUATION AND REDUCTION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

2734 Shri Rajeev Shukla:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government has discontinued, merged or reduced the allocation for any scholarship, fellowship or student support schemes during the last five years;
- b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such decisions;
- c) the number of students affected due to delay or non-release of scholarship/fellowship amounts during the last three years, State-wise; and
- d) the corrective measures taken to ensure timely disbursal of scholarships and fellowships to eligible students?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) and (b): In the year 2023-24, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced the National Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies (NSPGS), merging four scholarships schemes, namely: i) PG single girl child scholarship, (ii) PG scholarship for university rank holders, (iii) PG scholarship for SC/ST students pursuing professional courses and (iv) Post Graduate Scholarship for GATE/GPAT.

Under NSPGS, the scholarships at the rate of Rs.15,000/- per month for 10 months in an academic year, are available for two years to pursue higher studies within country, leading to award of Postgraduate Degree. Number of scholarship slots are 10,000, with 30% slots earmarked for the women candidates. The UGC has also launched Savitribai Jyotirao Phule

Fellowship for Single Girl Child in September 2022 by revising the erstwhile Swami Vivekananda Single Girl Child Fellowship, wherein the Fellowship is provided to eligible single girl child pursuing research leading to the award of Ph.D degree.

Further, as per the information provided by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the scholarship schemes, namely Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarship schemes for the six notified minority communities, viz. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh, are not in operation beyond 2021-22. The Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) scheme has also been discontinued with effect from 2022-23 owing to overlap with similar schemes of other Ministries/ Departments, though fellowship to existing beneficiaries continues to be paid as per extant guidelines.

(c) and (d): The Government, under its various schemes, has been disbursing scholarships/fellowships to eligible students. To ensure timely disbursement of Central sector scholarships to the beneficiaries, the scholarship amount is disbursed directly to the Aadhaar seeded bank account of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. While for the timely disbursement of Centrally Sponsored scholarship schemes, the disbursement of funds is facilitated through the SNA-SPARSH platform, which enables real time, utilization-based tracking of funds.

In FY 2025-26, the Central Government has provided about 1.09 crore scholarships for pursuing Post-Matric and Higher Education. This includes about 36 lakh scholarships for Other Backward Classes (OBC), Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) and Denotified Tribes (DNT) students; about 48 lakh scholarships for Scheduled Castes (SC) students; and about 24 lakh scholarships for Scheduled Tribes (ST) students.
