

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 457
ANSWERED ON – 22/07/2026

**SCHOLARSHIP, REHABILITATION AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IN
TAMIL NADU**

457. DR. M. DHANAPAL

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

- (a) the observations of Government regarding regional and socio-economic disparities affecting vulnerable communities in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the measures undertaken to improve access to education, skill development and financial assistance for disadvantaged sections in the State;
- (c) the progress achieved through scholarship, rehabilitation and empowerment programmes implemented in the State;
- (d) the initiatives proposed to be taken for enhancing social mobility and economic participation among beneficiary groups in the State; and
- (e) the district-wise allocation and utilisation of funds under major welfare programmes in the State during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (b) The Government recognizes the socio-economic challenges faced by vulnerable communities, including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Senior Citizens, transgender persons, persons engaged in the act of begging, persons affected by substance abuse, sanitation workers and other marginalized groups. To address these challenges, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment implements various Central Schemes across all States/UTs, including Tamil Nadu, for educational advancement, social protection, economic empowerment, rehabilitation and inclusive development, in coordination with the State / UT Governments and other implementing agencies.

The Department has undertaken various measures and initiatives across the country including the Tamil Nadu State for improving access to education, skill development, financial assistance and the overall educational and socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged sections through scholarship schemes for eligible students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) and Denotified, Nomadic, & Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) and others; skill development and entrepreneurship. The Department also supports rehabilitation and awareness initiatives. Financial assistance under the respective schemes of the Department is provided to eligible

beneficiaries and implementing agencies in accordance with the scheme guidelines, subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions and availability of funds. These interventions have contributed to improved access to education, enhanced employability, self-employment opportunities and greater social inclusion & empowerment.

(c) to (e) The Department proposes to further strengthen the implementation of scholarship and fellowship schemes through digital platforms, expand skill development and entrepreneurship, enhance awareness and outreach activities for greater coverage of eligible beneficiaries, and strengthen monitoring mechanisms for effective implementation of welfare programmes in collaboration with State Governments and implementing agencies.

The schemes implemented by the Department do not have any provision for district-wise allocation of funds. Funds are released to State Governments, implementing agencies, institutions or directly to eligible beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the respective scheme guidelines. Further, the details of Physical (number of beneficiaries) / Financial (released Central Share) achievements during the last three years in respect of major welfare schemes of the Department in the State of Tamil Nadu are attached as per **Annexure.**

I. Pre & Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students

Financial Year	Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs & Others		Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students	
	Beneficiaries	Central Assistance released (Rs. in Cr.)	Beneficiaries	Central Assistance released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	3,35,642	70.56	9,34,793	1,032.09
2024-25	5,21,123	109.45	6,43,761	713.69
2025-26	5,82,684	121.49	9,66,840	1,034.94

II. Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yoana (PM-AJAY):

Financial Year	Fund released to Tamil Nadu under PM-AJAY (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Adarsh Gram	Grants-in-aid	Hostel
2023-24	18,606.69	9,182.94	291.25
2024-25	22,325.63	9,674.36	187.50
2025-26	165.55	11,962.81	0

III. Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC):

Year	Fund released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	15.63
2024-25	16.36
2025-26	15.78

IV. State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC) :

Year	Fund released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	0.15
2024-25	0.00
2025-26	1.43

V. Prime Minister Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI):

(a) Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC & DNT Students:

Year	Fund released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	40.47
2024-25	23.63
2025-26	35.29

(b) Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC & DNT Students:

Year	Fund released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	135.00
2024-25	119.37
2025-26	106.74

(c) Construction of Hostel for OBC Boys and Girls:

Year	Fund released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	5.25
2024-25	1.30
2025-26	0.03

(d) Top Class Education in School for OBC, EBC & DNT Students:

Year	Fund released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	1.88
2024-25	11.51
2025-26	30.62

(e) Top Class Education in College for OBC, EBC & DNT Students:

Year	Fund released (Rs. in Cr.)
2023-24	5.71
2024-25	14.79
2025-26	15.41

VI. National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) – (launched in 2023 to ensure safety and dignity of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers):

Number of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSW) Validated	6,891
Number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits for SSWs	6,891
Number of Safety Devices provided to Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU)	37
Number of Workshop organized on Prevention of Hazardous Cleaning of Sewer and Septic Tanks	98
Number of Sanitation Workers provided capital subsidy for mechanised cleaning equipment.	44
Number of Waste Pickers validated	34,854
Number of PPE kits provided for Waste Pickers	9,925
