

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.\*515  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.04.2017

**Schemes for Students from Backward Communities**

\*515. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched schemes to help students from backward communities and Dalits to pursue higher education in the educational institutions of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*515 FOR 10.04.2017 ASKED BY SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING SCHEMES FOR STUDENTS FROM BACKWARD COMMUNITIES**

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The following schemes are implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by the University Grants Commission (UGC) so as to help them pursue higher education in Higher Educational Institutions:

- i)** National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (OBC) Candidate: This scheme is funded by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and open to OBC category candidates who are pursuing higher studies viz. regular and full time M.Phil. and Ph.D degrees in Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology. There are 300 slots for award of such fellowships every year. There is a provision of 3% reservation for slots for consideration of award of fellowship to research scholars for Persons with Disability (PwD) belonging to OBC category.
- ii)** National Fellowship for Higher Education of Schedule Tribe (ST) Students: National Fellowship for Higher Education of ST Students is funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The scheme is open to candidates who belong to ST and are pursuing higher studies such as regular and full time M.Phil and Ph.D degree in Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology. There are 750 slots for STs every year.
- iii)** Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Candidate: This scheme is funded by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Candidates who belong to SC and pursuing higher studies such as regular and full time M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology. There are 2,000 slots for SCs every year. 3% fellowships are reserved for Persons with Disabilities candidates belonging to SC categories.
- iv)** Post-Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST Candidates: This scheme provides an opportunity to SC/ST candidates to undertake post-doctoral research in Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Universities/ Institutions/Colleges included under Section 2(f) and 12 (B) of UGC Act, Deemed to be Universities included under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 and Institutes of National Importance.
- v)** PG Scholarship for Professional Courses for SC/ST Candidates: The scheme has been initiated keeping in view the social background of the candidates from the deprived

section of the society. The aim of the scheme is to provide these candidates opportunity to undertake postgraduate level studies in Professional subjects like Engineering & Technology, Management, Pharmacy etc. in Indian Universities/Institutions/ Colleges.

Further, the following initiatives are taken to ensure higher education of SC/ST/OBC students:

- UGC is implementing a scheme of Remedial Coaching for SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) and Minority Community Students with a view to (i) improve academic skills and linguistic proficiency of the students in various subjects (ii) raise their level of comprehension of basic subjects to provide a stronger foundation for further academic work; and (iii) strengthen their knowledge, skills and attitudes in such subjects, where quantitative and qualitative techniques and laboratory activities are involved so that proper guidance and training provided under the programme may enable the students to come up to the level necessary for pursuing higher studies efficiently.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development has a Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme, 2009 which provides full Interest Subsidy for the period of moratorium (course period + 1 year) on educational loans taken by students from economically weaker sections with annual parental income up to Rs.4.5 lakh, from scheduled banks under the Educational Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks' Association to pursue Technical/Professional courses in India. The details of the scheme are available on MHRD website [www.mhrd.gov.in](http://www.mhrd.gov.in)
- Dr. Ambedkar Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry provides interest subsidy to meritorious Other Backward Class (OBC) and Economically Backward Class (EBC) students so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education abroad. To be eligible under the scheme, a student should come under the income ceiling of Rs.3 lakh per annum for OBCs and Rs.1 lakh for EBCs. 50% of the outlay every year is earmarked for girl students. The details of the scheme are available on [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in)

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