

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 339
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2017

Assistance for Higher Education

†339. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the various subordinate departments of the Government particularly University Grants Commission (UGC) provide assistance to women, people from weaker sections, differently abled and financially weaker sections for higher education;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance schemes;

(c) whether the UGC has reviewed such schemes being implemented in universities; and

(d) if so, the features of such schemes and the effective steps taken by the Government so as to provide the benefit of such schemes to the beneficiaries?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been implementing a number of schemes like (i) National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (OBC) Candidates (ii) National Fellowship for Higher Education of Schedule Tribe (ST) Students (iii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC Candidates (iv) Post-Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST Candidates (v) PG Scholarship for Professional Courses for SC/ST Candidates (vi) Fellowships for Women Candidates for the welfare of women, people from weaker sections, differently abled and financially weaker sections for pursuing Higher Education.

The Women Candidates and Persons with Disability (PWD) (more than 40% disability) are allowed a relaxation of one year for M.Phil and two years for Ph.D in maximum duration of these courses; allowing transfer of research data in case of relocation of an M.Phil/Ph.D woman scholar due to marriage or otherwise; and allowing women candidates maternity leave/child-care leave once in the entire duration of M.Phil./Ph.D for up to 240 days. Further, the UGC is implementing post-doctoral fellowship for women candidates (un-employed); Swami Vivekananda single

girl child scholarship for research in social sciences and PG Indira Gandhi Scholarship for single girl child for postgraduate courses to promote the enrolment of women at post- doctoral, doctoral and its feeder levels.

Further, the UGC is providing funds for 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.

It has also been informed that these are ongoing schemes in which the institution ensures proper implementation of the scheme and all payments are made by using Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. These payments are routed through Public Financial Management Scheme (PFMS), a robust system for ensuring transparency in the system.

Further, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been operating 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
