

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2581
ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

PRE AND POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP TO MINORITY STUDENTS

2581. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:
SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of budget allocation and utilization of funds for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for minority communities during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the said scholarships were instituted after the Sachar Committee Report found that children from the Muslim community were among the most educationally backward in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the educational status, achievement and needs among minority communities and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Government has discontinued pre-matric scholarships to students of minority communities from Class one to Class eight from 2022-23 and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of the number of students who received the said scholarship from Class one to Class eight in 2021-22 including West Bengal; and
- (f) whether the Government is taking any steps to improve educational access and achievement among minority communities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. It provided that Pre-Matric and Post Matric scholarship schemes would be implemented by the Government for meritorious students from minority communities. The year-wise details of Budget Estimates and amount sanctioned under Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes during the last five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) are given in the table below:

(In ₹ Crore)

Financial Year	Pre-Matric		Post Matric	
	Budget Estimate	Amount sanctioned	Budget Estimate	Amount sanctioned
2017-18	950.00	1108.13	550.00	479.72
2018-19	980.00	1176.20	692.00	354.90
2019-20	1220.00	1324.85	496.01	428.77
2020-21	1330.00	1325.54	535.00	512.81
2021-22	1378.00	1350.99	468.00	411.87

(c) & (d): It has been assessed on the basis of the available data that the level of participation among students from minority communities is at par with the national average at primary and elementary levels. This and the fact that the students at these levels are already covered under the Right to Education (RTE), Act, 2009, which makes it obligatory for the government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII), to each and every child. Further, to harmonize the Scheme with the identical Scholarship Schemes implemented by the Government for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes, it has been decided to discontinue scholarships for classes I – VIII under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for minorities.

(e): During 2021-22, about 46.63 lakh minority students from Classes I to VIII were sanctioned scholarship under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme in the country including West Bengal.

(f): While the Government will continue to implement the 3 Central Sector Scholarship Schemes for minorities in a more focussed manner, it has already implemented various Schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, specially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Education.
