

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2619**  
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

**DISCONTINUATION OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

**2619. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government proposes to discontinue the coverage of pre-matric scholarship scheme for classes I to VIII from 2022-23;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of scholarship sanctioned for classes I to VIII during the last five years; and
- (d) the details of proposal that has been suggested for as an obligatory of the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (class I to VIII) to each and every child therein?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): The Government implements various schemes for the welfare and upliftment of every strata, including minorities, especially the economically weaker and lesser privileged sections of the society, through various schemes of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Rural Development.

Ministry of Minority Affairs also implements various schemes, including various Scholarship and Fellowship schemes, across the country for socio-economic and educational empowerment of the notified minority communities.

The coverage under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for classes I to VIII has been discontinued from 2022-23. Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. This modifications has also been done to harmonize the scheme with identical Scholarship schemes implemented by other Central Government Ministries.

The year-wise details of scholarships sanctioned for classes I to VIII during the last five years are as under:

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Applicants</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount (In ₹ Crore)</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	4299139	767.06
<b>2018-19</b>	4653061	927.82
<b>2019-20</b>	4563398	1049.86
<b>2020-21</b>	4234799	870.61
<b>2021-22</b>	4663073	985.83

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