

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 243
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024**

Higher/Technical Education to SC/ST Students

†243. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the 12th pass out SC/ST students of Navodaya Vidyalaya situated in SC/ST dominated areas are deprived of pursuing higher/technical education due to lack of money;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any programme to provide higher/technical education to the said SC/ST students and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (c) Education falls under the concurrent list and thus, both Central and State Governments take various initiatives to ensure quality higher education in the country. There are 47 Central Universities, 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 21 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 31 National Institutes of Technology (NITs), 25 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), 7 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and other Higher Education Institutions under the purview of Ministry of Education which cater to the education aspirations of all sections of the country including SC/ST population.

22.5% of available seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students (7.5% for STs, 15% for SCs) in Central-Government funded Higher/Technical Education Institutions.

Central Sector umbrella scheme namely “Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan [PM-USP] Yojana” is being implemented with following three components namely Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS); Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (SSS for

J&K&L); and Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme. The main objective of the scheme is that the students from weaker sections of the society are not deprived of higher education because of their poor economic background. Under CSSS and SSS for J&K&L, reservation is in place for beneficiaries belonging to SCs and STs students.

Post matric scholarships to the students belonging to SCs and STs are being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs respectively by providing financial assistance to such students at post-matriculation stage to enable them to complete their education

At present, Undergraduate (B.Tech./B.Arch./B.Plan.) and Post-Graduate (M.Tech.) students of SC and ST categories in 31 National Institute of Technology (NITs) and an Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST), Shibpur get complete tuition fee waiver for the entire duration of course/ programme. Further, there is a complete tuition fee waiver of tuition fees for SC/ST students for Undergraduate programmes in IITs.

Equity is an integral and important component of the University Grants Commission's (UGC) Policy and Planning Framework. In order to ensure the access of all sections of the society and more particularly marginalized sections, the Commission has framed exclusive regulations and guidelines and has been implementing special schemes for students belonging to SC and ST categories.

A Central University namely Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU) in Lucknow was established on 10th Jan 1996. In essence, all the academic, research, and out-reach programmes of BBAU, including the University's Act and Statutes, are inspired by Dr Ambedkar's basic philosophy of making education the tool for a holistic socio-cultural transformation that first addresses the aspirations of the most deprived section of our society. The reservation policy has been followed for admission in Academic Session 2023-24 for the purposes of admission to all courses of study in the university and 50% of the seats shall be reserved for SC/ST students.

There are two Central Tribal Universities namely the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak and Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, Vizianagram which provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily to the tribal population of the country. The Government also gave its approval for setting up of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University at Mulugu District in the State of Telangana.
