

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1547
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2020**

PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF PMS SCHEME

1547. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the latest report of the C&AG on “Performance audit of Post matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste candidates” for the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, U.P. and Punjab has pointed out diversion of scholarship funds, delay in payment of scholarships, unutilised funds, discrepancies in e-scholarship portal, excess payments, scholarships to ineligible students and absence of guidelines by Ministry for effective monitoring and evaluation;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken course correction steps or is considering to take such steps to resolve these issues; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) to (c) : Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) of India, on the request of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment had conducted a performance audit of Post matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste students (PMS-SC) in five States namely Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The observation of C&AG in its report no. 12 of 2018 inter-alia includes diversion of scholarship fund, delay in payment of scholarship, unutilized funds, excess payment of scholarship etc. This Department reviewed the guidelines of PMS-SC Scheme and circulated revised guidelines dated 3.5.2018 with following major modifications to ensure effective implementation and better monitoring of the scheme.

(i) Online end-to-end processing, verification of eligibility credentials to ensure greater transparency and to control duplication, wrongful claims by institutions.

(ii) Mandatory payment of maintenance allowance and non-refundable fees to bank account of student beneficiaries only.

(iii) Income declaration of self-employed parents/guardian should be in the form of a certificate issued by Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar.

(iv) Institutions covered under the scheme must ensure that at least 50% of their students who receive scholarship pass to next higher class every year.
