

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 158
ANSWERED ON- 03/02/2025

FINANCIAL SUPPORT UNDER PM VIDYA-LAKSHMI SCHEME

158 SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- a) the details of numbers of meritorious students provided financial support under the PM Vidya-lakshmi Scheme in the State of Bihar, particularly in the Saran Commissionerate and the State-wise details thereof;
- b) whether it is a fact that very few students have been provided financial assistance under the scheme, if so, the reasons for the low outreach;
- c) whether the lack of awareness about the scheme among students and educational institutions is one of the primary reasons for low participation, if so, the steps being taken to address the issue; and
- d) the measures undertaken by the Government to improve awareness, simplify the application process and ensure better access to the scheme for students in rural and underprivileged areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): The PM Vidyalaxmi, a new central sector scheme has been launched on 6th November 2024. Under the scheme, collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan is provided to all the students, including students in the state of Bihar who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) and who desire to avail the education loan. Further, for students with annual family income up to ₹ 8 lakh, the scheme provides 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹ 10 lakhs. Up to one lakh fresh students not getting any other scholarship or interest subvention on education loan will get this interest subvention. In case number of fresh applicants for availing the benefit of interest subvention exceeds one lakh, all-India slots will be distributed across States based on population to ensure equitable inter-state representation, which translates to 10,302 slots for Bihar.

To improve awareness, the scheme guidelines have already been provided in the website of Ministry of Education at https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/document-reports/PM_Vidyalaxmi_Scheme_Guidelines.pdf.

The Indian Banks Association has been requested to circulate the guidelines to all the member banks. A dedicated online platform, PM Vidyalaxmi portal is being developed on which students will be able to apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention, through a simplified application process to be used by all banks. The Portal is for all Public Sector Banks, Private Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative banks. All these measures aim to create widespread awareness about the scheme and help eligible students, including those from rural and underprivileged areas to avail the benefits of PM-Vidyalaxmi.
