

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1672
ANSWERED ON 30/07/2025

MERIT-CUM-MEANS SCHEME

†1672. SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the process of merit-cum-means based selection in scholarship schemes is completely transparent and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the scholarship eligibility criteria in Maharashtra especially for those students from economically weaker sections, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact of scholarship schemes on students of poor and backward classes in Maharashtra;
- (d) whether the amount of scholarship provided under the scheme commensurate with the growing financial needs of the students and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, whether the Government is considering or proposes to increase the amount of scholarship?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a): The Ministry of Minority Affairs has implemented various schemes for the educational and socio-economic empowerment of 6 notified minority communities, especially from the economically weaker and under privileged sections. The Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme has been implemented to provide financial assistance to the poor and meritorious students for pursuing professional and technical courses. In order to maintain transparency, the scheme has been implemented through a Centralized National Scholarship Portal which is equipped with various features of transparency which also includes Aadhaar Based Authentication System, Direct Benefit Transfer system. The merit list is also generated through the National Scholarship Portal.

(b) to (e): The guidelines of the Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme are uniform for all States/UTs. In 2023, Ministry conducted a third party physical verification study of institutes/beneficiaries of the Scholarship Schemes in States/UTs including the State of Maharashtra. Out of 1572 sampled institutes across the country, 830 institutes were found to be either fake/ partial fake/ non-operational. The matter has been reported to Central Bureau of Investigation.

There is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry to increase the amount of scholarship.
