

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1506**  
ANSWERED ON – 09/02/2026

**Hidden Talent of Poor Students at School and College Level**

†1506. Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any schemes and projects are being implemented by the Government to develop the hidden talent of poor students at school and college level in rural areas of the country especially in the State of Tripura;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up funds for this purpose; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and district-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) Education falls under the concurrent list of the Constitution, with majority of the Schools and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) coming under the purview of States and UTs. On its part, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and their Autonomous Bodies implement various schemes and projects to support talented students and students belonging to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDG) in line with the mandates of National Education Policy, 2020.

The Central Sector Scheme ‘National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme’, awards scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum. States and UTs have fixed allotted quota. Number of awards allocated to Tripura under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme is 351.

The number of scholarships awarded to all States/UTs, including Tripura, during the last five year, alongwith the details of funds allocated, sanctioned and utilized under the scheme is tabulated below:

S.No.	Financial Year	Funds allocation (Rs. in Crore)	Actual Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	No. of Scholarships
1	2020-21	350.00	321.11	267503
2	2021-22	284.20	251.98	206794

3	2022-23	307.45	306.49	259524
4	2023-24	358.00	313.10	250089
5	2024-25	352.60	352.49	277760

Further, the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages for opening of one Navodaya Vidyalaya (NV) in each district of the country to provide good quality modern education, free of cost to the talented students predominantly from rural areas. As of now, 8 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established in the State of Tripura.

Additionally, under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, funds are allocated to States/UTs based on the appraisal and approval of the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) prepared by them factoring in their requirements and priorities. Various interventions are available under the scheme for supporting equitable and universal access to quality education and retention in school education. This includes support provided under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009, wherein financial outlay of Rs. 91.07 lakh has been approved for the State of Tripura during 2020-21 to 2024-25, as reimbursement against admission of EWS students in neighbourhood private unaided schools. Further, assistance is also provided for establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in those identified Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where, as per census data of 2001, the rural female literacy is below the national average and which does not have residential schools under any other scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Tribal Affairs or the State Government. As of now, 15 KGBVs are functional in the State of Tripura.

The Department of Higher Education (DHE) implements the Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Protsahan Yojana (PM-USP) which has three components namely Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS), Special Scholarship Scheme for the students of J&K and Ladakh (SSS for JKL) and Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS). Further, the PM Vidyalaxmi, a new central sector scheme has been launched on 6th November 2024. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education due to financial constraints. Under the scheme, collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan is provided to all the students who get merit-based admission in top Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) and who desire to avail the education loan and there is no upper limit for this. Further, for students with annual family income up to ₹ 8 lakh, the scheme provides 3% interest subvention on education 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. A dedicated online platform, the PM Vidyalaxmi portal <https://pmvidyalaxmi.co.in> has been developed on which students can apply for the education loan as well as interest subvention, through a simplified application process.

Besides the above, the State Government of Tripura also implements Schemes to support talent development in the State, which includes Super 30 Project, Chief Minister's Scholarship for Achievers Towards Higher Learning, SCERT Talent Search Examination, Tripura Science & Mathematics Talent Search Examination (Class VI), Tripura Science Talent Search Examination (Class IX), Tripura Math Talent Search Examination (Class IX) and Tripura Sanskrit Scholarship Examination (Class VIII).

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