

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2547
ANSWERED ON 09/03/2026

Educational Tours for ST Students of Lakshadweep

2547. Shri Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that educational tours for Scheduled Tribes (ST) students of Lakshadweep who passed the 8th and 11th standards, which provided essential exposure to mainland geography and learning, have been discontinued;
- (b) if so, the reasons for discontinuation of these tours;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of this discontinuation on the educational and personal development of these students from isolated islands and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to resume or introduce alternative educational tours or exposure programs for ST students of Lakshadweep and if so, the timelines and modalities for implementation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRI JAYANT CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d): As per information received from the UT of Lakshadweep, the Education Tour Scheme for students who passed 8th and 11th Standards were discontinued in 2020 due to restrictions on inter-island and mainland travel, suspension of transport services, and concerns relating to the safety and well-being of students, in accordance with Government advisories issued during the COVID-19 pandemic. This scheme was for all students of Lakshadweep, and not exclusively for ST students. The budget provision for the scheme is made under the Grant-in-Aid (GIA) UT Budget of Lakshadweep.

The Administration recognizes the importance of educational exposure programmes for students from isolated islands. While no formal impact assessment was conducted specifically on the discontinuation of educational tours, efforts were made to ensure continuity of students' academic, co-curricular, and personal development through alternative exposure initiatives.

The students including those belonging to Scheduled Tribes (ST) are provided opportunities to interact with peers from the mainland through national-level programmes such as Ashtalakshmi Darshan, INSPIRE-MANAK, the India International Science Festival (IISF), NCC camps (including ATC, NIC, and Republic Day Camp), NSS Activities, Kala-Utsav, and other cultural and youth exchange programmes of the Government of India, thereby ensuring adequate educational and developmental exposure.
