

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2841
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2026**

IMPLEMENTATION OF WELFARE SCHEMES

2841. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) the details of various welfare schemes being implemented by the Ministry for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, senior citizens and persons with disabilities in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries covered under each of these schemes in the said districts since 2019, year and scheme-wise;
- (c) the total amount of funds allocated and utilized under these schemes in Darjeeling and Kalimpong during the said period; and
- (d) whether any proposals have been received from the Government of West Bengal or local authorities for new projects such as old age homes, hostels or skill development centres in these districts and if so, the present status thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

- (a) to (c): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) implements various schemes/programmes for the socio-economic welfare of scheduled castes, other backward classes, senior citizens and persons with disability across the country including Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal. The details of schemes, persons benefited and the expenditure since 2019 onwards is at **Annexure**.
- (d): Proposals for projects such as old age homes, hostels and skill development centres under the relevant schemes of the Ministry are considered as and when received from the State Government/implementing agencies, subject to the scheme guidelines, availability of funds and fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2841 FOR REPLY ON 10.03.2026 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF WELFARE SCHEMES ASKED BY SHRI RAJU BISTA.

1. PM-AJAY:

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched in 2021-22 by merging three existing schemes, namely Adarsh Gram, Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP), and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana. The Scheme has three components namely (i) 'Adarsh Gram', (ii) 'Grants-in-aid for District/State-level Projects for Socio-Economic betterment of Scheduled Caste(SC) Communities' and (iii) 'Hostel'. Under this scheme, the central assistance is released by this Department to the State Government/Union Territory Administration and not at district level. However, the details of funds released and beneficiaries covered under the Grants-in-aid component in the State of West Bengal since 2019-20 are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Grants-in-aid	Beneficiaries covered
1	2019-20	164.85	61856
2	2020-21	166.60	37536
3	2021-22	195.00	43498
4	2022-23	00.00	43929
5	2023-24	33.21	11254
6	2024-25	58.29	Not reported by State Government
7	2025-26	47.95	198073

2. Pre-Matric for SCs and Others and Post-Matric Scholarship to the Students belonging to SC for studies in India (PMS-SC):

Centrally Sponsored Scholarship Schemes viz. (i) Pre-Matric Scholarships for SCs and Others; (ii) Post-Matric Scholarships to the Students belonging to SC for studies in India (PMS-SC), which are being implemented through the State Governments/UTs Administrations. Post Matric scholarship scheme for SC students and Pre Matric scholarship scheme for SCs & others are implemented on DBT mode w.e.f. 2021-22 & w.e.f. 2022-23 respectively. Under the above Schemes, the release of Central Share of scholarship is contingent upon State Governments/UTs Administrations to share the State/UT paid data to the National Scholarship Portal. The aforesaid schemes are open-ended and demand driven for all the eligible students of all the recognized institutions across India subject to the budget outlay.

The details of Physical (no. of beneficiaries) and Financial (released Central Share) achievements from A.Y. 2022-23 to 2024-25 in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, West Bengal i.r.o. Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs & Others is as follows:

A.Y	DARJEELING		KALIMPONG	
	Beneficiaries	Central Share released in Rs.	Beneficiaries	Central Share released in Rs.
2022-23	1530	32,23,500	22	46,200
2023-24	1205	25,62,000	25	52,600
2024-25	828	17,70,300	22	46,200

The details of Physical (number of beneficiaries) and Financial (released Central Share) achievements from A.Y. 2021-22 to 2024-25 in Darjeeling and Kalimpong in respect of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students is as follows:

A.Y	DARJEELING		KALIMPONG	
	Beneficiaries	Central Share released in Rs.	Beneficiaries	Central Share released in Rs.
2021-22	8099	2,01,31,728	152	4,34,676
2022-23	8811	2,42,68,080	146	4,12,164
2023-24	5923	1,68,30,648	97	2,42,772
2024-25	3199	88,02,204	76	1,92,672

3. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides financial assistance for income generating activities at concessional rate of interest to the members of Backward Classes (urban & rural) having annual family income upto Rs.3.00 Lakh, through its Channel Partners (agencies nominated by the States/UTs, various Scheduled Banks etc.).

The year and scheme-wise number of beneficiaries assisted under each of these schemes in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal since 2019 are as under:

Year	DARJEELING		KALIMPONG	
	Individual Loan (No. of Beneficiaries)	Group Loan (No. of Beneficiaries)	Individual Loan (No. of Beneficiaries)	Group Loan (No. of Beneficiaries)
2019-20	1	35	15	18
2020-21	0	90	0	37
2021-22	0	63	23	54
2022-23	4	20	4	81
2023-24	9	150	4	60
2024-25	2	32	5	20
2025-26 (As on 05.03.2026)	3	20	0	10

The total amount of funds allocated/disbursed and utilized under these schemes in Darjeeling and Kalimpong during the said period, are as under:

Year	DARJEELING		KALIMPONG	
	Funds allocated / Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds utilized (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds allocated / Disbursed (Rs. in lakh)	Funds utilized (Rs. in lakhs)
2019-20	8.50	8.50	6.32	6.32
2020-21	9.00	9.00	3.7	3.70
2021-22	6.30	6.30	7.4	7.40
2022-23	8.80	8.80	58.87	58.87
2023-24	38.63	38.63	31.10	31.10
2024-25	11.33	11.33	16.26	16.26
2025-26 (As on 05.03.2026)	9.23	9.23	2.00	2.00

4. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Ministry has been implementing the schemes of 'Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)' through which funds are released to various Implementing Agencies for providing aids & assistive devices to the eligible persons with disabilities (PwDs) across the country including West Bengal. Being a Central Sector Scheme, there is no State-wise/District-wise allocation made under the ADIP Scheme. However, funds utilized and number of beneficiaries covered in Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts under the ADIP Scheme since 2019 year-wise, are as under:

Year	Darjeeling		Kalimpong	
	No. of beneficiaries covered	Funds Utilized (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries covered	Funds Utilized (Rs. in lakhs)
2019-20	154	10.33	-	-
2020-21	234	16.09	-	-
2021-22	-	-	-	-
2022-23	403	30.05	41	3.45
2023-24	8	0.48	-	-
2024-25	261	28.45	32	1.98
2025-26 (as on date 06.03.2026)	120	11.45	20	2.52
