

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2959
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2026**

BENEFICIARIES OF WELFARE SCHEMES

2959. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has implemented major Central social welfare schemes, during the last three years in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the funds sanctioned, released and utilised, along with the number of beneficiaries covered, scheme and year-wise;
- (c) the number of applications received and benefits sanctioned to economically weaker sections, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Shirur Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (d) the reasons for delays, rejections or pendency in sanctioning benefits and the corrective measures taken to ensure timely delivery to eligible beneficiaries; and
- (e) the steps taken to strengthen social security for unorganised workers and migrant labourers, including health coverage, portability of benefits and income support mechanisms in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir.

The Government has been implementing several social welfare schemes across the country, including in the State of Maharashtra, during the last three years, with the objective of ensuring inclusive growth and social protection for eligible beneficiaries. These include Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY); Venture Capital Funds; Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE); Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayata (VISVAS); Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA); Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs; Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY); National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR); National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE); Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (SEED); PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) for OBCs and other eligible categories; Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PCR); Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Caste (SC) students; SHREYAS for OBCs and other eligible categories; Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana; 'Welfare of SC/ST Jobseekers Scheme' through the network of 25 National Career Service Centres for SC/ST (NCSC-SC/STs) across the

Country, etc. Similarly, Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been taking up various tribal development projects relating to education, health, agriculture, irrigation, roads, housing, electrification, employment generation, skill development, etc. for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

The scheme-wise details of funds sanctioned, released and utilised, along with the number of beneficiaries covered during the last three years as well as the number of applications received and benefits sanctioned to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the State of Maharashtra, wherever applicable, are furnished in **Annexure-I**.

(d): Delays, rejections or pendency in sanctioning benefits may occur due to reasons such as incomplete or incorrect applications, non-submission of requisite documents, delay in verification by the concerned authorities, non-fulfilment of eligibility criteria, and late submission of proposals or utilisation certificates by implementing agencies. To address these issues and ensure timely delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries, the Department has taken several corrective measures, including streamlining of application and verification processes through online portals, adoption of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for direct transfer of benefits to beneficiaries' bank accounts, periodic review meetings with State Governments/implementing agencies, issuance of advisories and reminders for timely submission of proposals and documents, and strengthening of monitoring mechanisms.

(e): Various measures are being undertaken by the Government of India to strengthen social security for unorganised workers and migrant labourers across the country, including in Maharashtra. In this regard, the Government is implementing schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM) for old-age protection; Labour Welfare Schemes (LWS) for Beedi, Cine and Non-Coal Mine workers and their families, covering health, education (scholarships) and housing components; National Career Service (NCS), including the establishment of Model Career Centres (MCCs), to enhance employment opportunities; Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 implemented through the EPFO; Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to incentivise employers for generation of new employment and restoration of jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic; rehabilitation of bonded labourers and health coverage through the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Further, NAMASTE scheme has the provision of health insurance coverage to its beneficiaries. 6,121 Sewer and Septic Tank Workers have been covered under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY and NAMASTE scheme in the State of Maharashtra.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2959 FOR REPLY ON 10.03.2026 REGARDING BENEFICIARIES OF WELFARE SCHEMES ASKED BY DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE.

1. PM-AJAY:

The details of funds released under the PM-AJAY Scheme during last three years in the State of Maharashtra is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Component	Funds released		
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1.	Adarsh Gram	2,735.60	216.41	0
2.	Grants-in-aid	125.47	0	2,724.50
3.	Hostel	0	0	0

The number of persons benefitted under PM-AJAY Scheme during the last three years in the State of Maharashtra is as under:

Sl.No.	Component	No. of SC beneficiaries		
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1.	Adarsh Gram	90,739	30,812	25,734
2.	Grants-in-aid	Not reported by State Govt.	Not reported by State Govt.	Not reported by State Govt.
3.	Hostel	0	0	0

Note: Under PM-AJAY, applications are not received from beneficiaries directly; rather State Governments/UT Administrations submit proposals on online web portals. After examination of the proposals by the Department, the funds are sanctioned thereafter.

2. Venture Capital Fund: The exposure of VCF-SC, ASIIM and VCF-BC in terms of sanction, disbursement (release), and utilization of fund during past 3 years is as follows:

Sanction & Disbursement in Maharashtra						
Component	2023-24		2024-25		2025-26	
	Amt. in Cr.	No. of Companies	Amt. in Cr.	No. of Companies	Amt. in Cr.	No. of Companies
VCF-SC Sanction	42.09	7	40.38	8	2.94	2
VCF-SC Disbursement	24.61	11	11.94	8	11.85	7
ASIIM Sanction	2.4	8	1.8	6	3.3	11
ASIIM Disbursement	1.46	17	0.94	14	0.86	14
VCF-BC Sanction	12.04	2	5	1	9.66	2
VCF-BC Disbursement	9.06	2	5.99	3	2.1	2

Note: The VCFSC schemes managed at IFCI Venture are meant for Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes only. Total applications have been received under ASIIM are 23 and 73 applications received under VCFSC. Total applications received from Maharashtra under VCFBC are 18 during last three years.

3. **SMILE-Beggary:** Under the scheme, funds are released to District administrations/Municipal Corporations and funds have been released to 5 cities in Maharashtra, which have submitted consent for the implementation of the scheme:

Sl. No.	District/City	Fund Released (Rs. in lakh)			No. of people rehabilitated
		2023-24	2024-25	2025-56	
1	Shirdi	-	9.00	-	-
2	Nagpur	-	9.00	-	816
3	Pune Pimpri Chinchwad	-	9.00	-	-
4	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar	-	9.00	-	-
5	Nashik	17.60	-	-	-
6	Kolhapur	-	-	-	-
7	Pune	-	-	-	-
8	Amarawati	-	-	-	-
9	Thane	-	-	-	-
10	Solapur	-	-	-	-

4. **SMILE (Welfare of Transgender Persons):**

Details of funds sanctioned, released and utilized during last three years along with the number of beneficiaries covered during the last three years in the state of Maharashtra, are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Financial Year	Funds sanctioned, released and utilized	Number of beneficiaries
2022-23	-	63
2023-24	0.70	60
2024-25	0.56	72

5. **VISVAS:** The scheme is being implemented from 2024-25 onwards. The details of the amount subvented and beneficiaries covered under the VISVAS scheme in Maharashtra are as follows:

VISVAS in Maharashtra (Rs. in Lakh)				
	2024-25		2025-26	
Component	Beneficiary	Subvention Amount	Beneficiary	Subvention Amount
VISVAS-SC	1,890	8	456	7.53
VISVAS-BC	3,770	16.30	3,770	46.28

Note: Under the Scheme, interest subvention is provided on already sanctioned loans by various financial institutions like PSBs & RRBs. Lending Institutions (Lis) submit quarterly claims duly certified by their auditors. Subsidy is transferred directly to eligible beneficiaries' bank accounts through the PFMS/DBT system.

6. **Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA):** Being a Central Sector Scheme, allocation is not made State/UT- wise. However, the physical and financial details of number of beneficiaries and funds released to schools and NGO projects in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of beneficiaries	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)
2022-23	4,094	744.29
2023-24	2,982	878.5
2024-25	1,751	913.99

Under Mode-I of the Scheme, students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) are selected through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Details of number of registrations and candidates selected from the State of Maharashtra since 2024-25 is as under:

Year	No. of registrations	No. of candidates appeared	No. of beneficiaries
2024-25	244	163	127
2025-26	314	264	88

7. **Central Sector Umbrella Scheme namely "Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers (SHREYAS) for scheduled Caste (SCs)":** It comprises of 4 central sector sub- schemes namely "Top Class Education for SCs", "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs and beneficiaries of PM CARES Children", "National Overseas Scheme for SCs" and "National Fellowship for SCs".

a. Top Class Education for SCs:

(Rs. in Cr.)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2022-23	108.00	85.67
2	2023-24	100.0	83.84
3	2024-25	103.00	103.26

b. Free Coaching for SCs, OBCs and beneficiaries of PM-CARES children Scheme (FCS):

(Rs. in Cr.)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2022-23	27.00	18.41
2	2023-24	14.82	7.76
3	2024-25	18.00	17.68

c. National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme for SC etc. candidates

(Rs. in Cr.)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2022-23	50.00	86.59
2	2023-24	85.00	88.56
3	2024-25	95.00	74.17

d. National Fellowship for SCs

(Rs. in Cr.)

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2022-23	159.00	134.07
2	2023-24	188.00	199.82
3	2024-25	212.00	209.50

Note: All of these being Central Sector Schemes, therefore implemented on Pan India basis including the State of Maharashtra.

8. **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY):** An Umbrella Scheme having 07 components, w.e.f. 01.04.2021 for the Welfare of Senior Citizens across the country including Maharashtra. Details of budgetary allocation under components of AVYAY and the Actual Expenditure (AE) made during the last 03 years is as below:

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl. No	Name of the Scheme	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		B.E.	Actual Exp.	B.E.	Actual Exp.	B.E.	Actual Exp.
1.	Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana	88.84	88.84	92.15	59.32	168.21	208.29
2.	Elderline	33.49	33.49	52.47	9.62	53.46	9.23
3.	SAGE	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	0.0
4.	Training of Geriatric Care Givers	NA	NA	25.00	0.00	35.00	45.82
5.	Other Initiatives for Senior Citizens	NA	NA	8.00	0.12	15.00	2.96
6.	IPSRc	241.76	72.31	275.05	118.96	307.93	125.43
7.	SAPSRc	18.47	11.74	17	21.19	17	16.91

9. National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR):

Details of Funds released to NGOs and under State Actions Plan (SAP) and the beneficiaries in Maharashtra during last 3 years is as under:

(Rs. in Cr.)

2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
Funds released to NGOs /VOs	Fund released to SAP	Beneficiaries	Funds released to NGOs/VOs	Fund released to SAP	Beneficiaries	Funds released To NGOs /VOs	Fund released to SAP	Beneficiaries
9.88	0	8705	12.81	1.87	10347	14.39	0	28739

Details of funds transferred to Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Maharashtra by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) out of the funds released by the Ministry to NDDTC, AIIMS and their beneficiaries during the last 3 years is as under:

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Amount transferred by NDDTC, AIIMS to ATFs in Maharashtra	No. of patients treated
i.	2022-23	Rs. 11, 93,850	750
ii.	2023-24	Rs. 41,78,599	446
iii.	2024-25	Rs. 39,51,150	879

10. National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme:

National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme for the welfare of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) is operational since 2023-24. Components of the erstwhile 'Self-Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) have been subsumed in the scheme. Waste Pickers have been added as a target group under the scheme from the financial year 2024-25. Sanitation work is occupation based rather than caste based.

NAMASTE being a Central Sector Scheme, funds are released for various SSW components in accordance to beneficiaries validated by States as per the scheme guidelines.

8,660 Sewer and Septic tank Workers and 38,529 Waste Pickers have been validated under the NAMASTE scheme in the State of Maharashtra. The year-wise expenditure details along with progress under various components in Maharashtra is as under:

Sl. No.	Component	FY 23-24		FY 24-25		FY 25-26 (as on 29.01.2026)	
		Physical	Financial (Rs. In Lakh)	Physical	Financial (Rs. In Lakh)	Physical	Financial (Rs. In Lakh)
1	PPE Kits for SSWs	225	17.43	6910	257.72	838	29.12
2	ERSU Safety Kits	-	-	32	60.72	13	20.91
3	Workshop	61	11.96	47	8.4	17	1.56
4	IEC	-	-	-	14.3	-	-
5	Skill Development Training	-	-	153	0.45	113	55.46
6	Capital subsidy for General Projects	6	30	-	-	56	140.53
Total			59.39		341.59		247.58

11. Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED):

For the development and welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Communities, Government is implementing Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) in Maharashtra from the last two years to support for (i) Educational Empowerment: By giving them financial assistance for free coaching, (ii) Health: Ayushman Cards are being distributed among DNT communities, (iii) Livelihoods: Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed in DNT clusters.

The details of funds released to the implementing agencies and the number of beneficiaries covered, year-wise is as under:

Year	Scheme component	Funds released	No. of beneficiaries
2024-25	Educational Empowerment (Free coaching)	2.75 cr.	212
	Health	-	5,000
	Livelihood	2.06 cr.	2,628
2025-26	Educational Empowerment (Free coaching)	5.15 cr.	1,145
	Health	0.05 cr.	29,532
	Livelihood	4.44 cr.	8,469

12. Details of OBC Welfare Schemes in State of Maharashtra

Scheme	Achievements during last three years and current year (Financial and Physical in lakh)								
	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	Notional Allocation	Financial	Physical	Notional Allocation	Financial	Physical	Notional Allocation	Financial	Physical
Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students	3271.00	2963.89	\$	1808.00	0.00	0	1319.00	555.74	1.17 (Lakh)
Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students	9108.00	6921.12	\$	6987.00	0.00	0	5852.00	0.00	0
Construction of Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	-	0.00	0	-	0.00	0	-	0.00	0
Top Class Education in School for OBC Students	-	3.135	33(Actual)	-	52.31	262 (Actual)	-	256.21	761 (Actual)
Top Class Education in College for OBC students	Scheme implemented in 2023-24				1000.39	325 (Actual)	-	2712.14	862 (Actual)

\$ Not reported by Implementing Agencies

13. Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) (Prevention of Atrocities) (PoA) Act, 1989, under which Central Assistance is provided to the State/UTs for effective implementation of the PCR Act, 1955 and the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989. The scheme is being implemented in Maharashtra. The details of Central Assistance released to State of Maharashtra, number of atrocity victim received relief and number of inter-caste marriage couples received incentive under the above Scheme in last three years i.e F.Y. 2022-23 to 2024-25 are as under:

2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
Funds released	Physical		Funds released	Physical		Funds released	Physical	
	No. of atrocity victims provided relief (in number)	No. of inter-caste marriage couples to whom incentive has been provided		No. of atrocity victims provided relief (in number)	No. of inter-caste marriage couples to whom incentive has been provided		No. of atrocity victims provided relief (in number)	No. of inter-caste marriage couples to whom incentive has been provided
12.83 (Rs. in crore)	2869	0	37.27 (Rs. in crore)	3339	440	24.52 (Rs. in crore)	5661	8566

14. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and Pre-Matric Scholarships scheme for SCs & Others which are being implemented through the State/UTs.

a. The details of Physical (no. of beneficiaries) and Financial (released Central Share) achievements during the last 03 years i.r.o Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students in State of Maharashtra are as follows:

F.Y.	Central Share released (Rs. in Crore)	Beneficiaries
2022-23	359.42	148573
2023-24	1652.98	749317
2024-25	929.92	362808

- b. The details of Physical (no. of beneficiaries) and Financial (released Central Share) achievements during the last 03 years i.r.o Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students in State of Maharashtra are as follows:

F.Y.	Central Share released (Rs. in Crore)	Beneficiaries
2022-23	-	-
2023-24	-	-
2024-25	0.11	535

15. Welfare of SC/ST Jobseekers Scheme:

The details of funds allocated and utilized under the “Welfare of SC/ST Jobseekers Scheme” including the number of beneficiaries in the State of Maharashtra (NCSC-Nagpur) during the last three years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Budget Estimates (Rs. in thousands)	Total Expenditure (Rs. in thousands)	Number of Beneficiaries
1	2022-23	15,208	13,974	11,346
2	2023-24	14,108	13,380	10,870
3	2024-25	9,194	8,644	12,725
