

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3921
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2026**

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

3921. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact the National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes is being seen a sharp drop in beneficiaries with funding utilization for some education initiatives falling to forty percent in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of action taken by the Government to make this scheme more attractive?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The data in respect of beneficiaries and expenditure during last three years, as given below, under the Scheme of National Fellowship for scheduled caste students reveals that the number of beneficiaries is increasing every year except a slight decrease in the year 2024-25 whereas the expenditure is continuously increasing.

Financial Year	Beneficiaries	Expenditure (Rs in crore)
2022-23	3608	134.07
2023-24	4166	199.82
2024-25	4143	209.50

(c): To make this Scheme more attractive, the Government has undertaken several measures such as implementation of the Scheme through a dedicated online Scholarship and Fellowship Management Portal, disbursement of fellowships through Direct Benefit Transfer, streamlining of verification process and dissemination of information through the websites and outreach activities to ensure wider awareness and coverage among eligible students by the Department, by the implementing organization the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation and also by the University Grants Commission.
