

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3996
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2026**

UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN BELONGING TO SC/OBC COMMUNITIES

3996. SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched or proposes to launch any scheme for the upliftment and development of women belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs);
- (b) if so, the details and objectives of such schemes, along with the quantum of funds allocated thereunder; and
- (c) the number of women beneficiaries covered under these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year in Amravati district of Maharashtra, scheme-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment implements various Schemes for the social, economic and educational empowerment of the vulnerable sections of society including women belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The schemes are open to eligible female applicants. However, there are special provisions for women in some of these Schemes. The details and objectives of the major Schemes along with the details of special provisions for women beneficiaries under these schemes are at **Annexure-I**.

The details of total funds allocated/released under the major Schemes across India during last three years and in current year are at **Annexure-II**. The total number of SC/OBC beneficiaries, including women, across India, including the State of Maharashtra under the major Schemes during last three years and in current year are at **Annexure-III**.

Annexure referred to in part (a) to (c) in respect of Lok Sabha unstarred Q. No. 3996 for answer on 17.03.2026 regarding Upliftment of Women Belonging to SC/OBC Communities asked by Shri Balwant Baswant Wankhade.

The details and objectives of the major Schemes and special provisions for women:

Sr No.	Name of the scheme	Details and objectives the schemes
MAJOR SCHEMES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs)		
1	Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes(SCs)	<p>The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students (PMS-SC) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for studies in India for only those SC students whose Parent/Guardian's income should not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakh per annum. The vision of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students (PMS-SC) is to create pathways for SC students towards their educational and socio-economic development, fostering inclusivity and empowering them to pursue higher education.</p> <p>The objective is to appreciably increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SC students in higher education with emphasis on those from the poorest households by providing financial assistance at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage for enabling them to complete their education.</p>
2	Pre Matric for scholarship scheme for SCs and Others	<p>The vision of the centrally sponsored Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs and Others is to promote inclusive and equitable education at the pre-matric level for children belonging to Scheduled Castes and children of parents/guardians engaged in unclean and hazardous occupations.</p> <p>The objective of the scheme is to support, through financial assistance, parents of children belonging to Schedules Caste and other disadvantaged categories for education of their wards studying at the Pre-Matric stage so that their participation improves, the incidence of drop-out - especially in the transition from the primary to the next level and elementary to the secondary stage - is minimized, they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the Post-matric stage of education.</p>
3	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)	<p>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'.</p> <p>The objectives of the PM AJAY Scheme are to improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the SC dominated villages; to reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment</p>

		opportunities through skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives; to increase literacy and encourage enrolment of SCs in schools and higher educational institutions by providing adequate residential facilities in quality institutions, as well as residential schools where required, especially in the aspirational districts/ SC dominated blocks and elsewhere in India.
4	Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)	SHRESHTA is implemented in two modes, where in Mode-I, fee is reimbursed to Private Residential Schools affiliated to CBSE/State Boards for providing high quality residential education to meritorious SC students. Under Mode-II, Grant-in-Aid is provided to the NGOs/VOs for running and maintenance of the project of Residential/Non-Residential schools and Hostels for SC student. The objective of SHRESHTA is to enhance the reach of development Intervention of the Government and to fill the gap in service deficient SCs dominant areas, in the sector of education through the efforts of grant-in-aid institutions (run by NGOs) and residential high schools offering high quality education and to provide environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs).
5	Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs	<p>For Educational Empowerment of Talented students, SHREYAS-SC is a Central Sector Umbrella Scheme which comprises 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". The details of these sub-Schemes are as under:</p> <p><u>Top Class Scholarship for SC students (TCS)</u></p> <p>The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education amongst students belonging to SCs, by providing financial support. The Scheme will cover SC students for pursuing studies beyond 12th class.</p> <p><u>Free Coaching for SCs, OBCs and beneficiaries of PM-cares children Scheme (FCS):</u></p> <p>The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and beneficiaries of PM CARES Children Scheme (included from 2024-25) to enable them to appear in competitive examinations for obtaining appropriate jobs in Public/Private Sector and/or for securing admission in reputed technical and professional higher education Institution.</p> <p><u>National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme for SC etc. candidates</u></p> <p>Under NOS, financial assistance is provided to facilitate the low income meritorious students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans</p>

		<p>category to obtain higher education viz., master's degree or Ph.D courses by studying abroad thereby improving their Economic and Social status.</p> <p><u>National Fellowship for SC students (NFSC)</u></p> <p>The objective of the scheme is to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to SC category to pursue higher studies leading to Ph.D in Science, Humanities, Social Science, in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC).</p> <p><i>30% of the scholarships for each selection year are earmarked for female candidates under TCS, FCS and NOS.</i></p>
MAJOR SCHEMES FOR OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES (OBCs)		
6	<p>PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM YASASVI) for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economic Backward Classes (EBCs) and De Notified Tribes (DNTs)</p>	<p>The following schemes are implemented under PM-YASASVI for the welfare of OBCs and others under PM-YASASVI, which are gender-neutral, and 30% reservation for girls is provided under these schemes:</p> <p>(i) Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students</p> <p>The objective of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT students (who are not covered under SC, ST or OBC) is welfare and motivation to the children of these categories by providing financial assistance at pre matriculation or secondary stage.</p> <p>(ii) Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC, EBC and DNT Students</p> <p>The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance to the OBC, EBC and DNT students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.</p> <p>(iii) Top Class Education in Schools for OBC, EBC and DNT Students</p> <p>The objective of the Schemes to provide premium education to the meritorious students belonging to OBC, EBC and DNT categories by funding their education from Class 9 onwards till they complete Class 12.</p> <p>(iv) Top Class Education in Colleges for OBC, EBC and DNT Students</p> <p>The objective of the Scheme is to recognize and promote quality education amongst Students belonging to OBC, EBC and DNT categories by providing full financial support. The Scheme will cover OBC/EBC/DNT students for pursuing studies beyond class XIIth</p> <p>Further, there is a fifth component under the PM YASASVI Scheme as below:</p>

		<p>(v) Construction of Hostel for OBC Boys and Girls.</p> <p>The Scheme aims at providing hostel facilities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, especially from rural areas, to enable them to pursue secondary and higher education. Priority will be given for the proposals for construction of hostels for under-graduate students vis-a-vis below under-graduate level.</p>
7	<p>Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS-OBC)</p>	<p>The Central Sector Umbrella Scheme, "Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS-OBC)", is implemented by DoSJE, which has the following two sub-schemes. The main objective of the schemes is Educational Empowerment of OBC & EBC students by way of awarding fellowship (financial assistance) in obtaining quality higher education and interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Fellowship for OBC ii. Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).

Annexure referred to in part (a) to (c) in respect of Lok Sabha unstarred Q. No. 3996 for answer on 17.03.2026 regarding Upliftment of Women Belonging to SC/OBC Communities asked by Shri Balwant Baswant Wankhade.

The total funds allocated/released under the major Schemes for welfare of Scheduled Castes(SCs) during the last three Financial Years (FYs) and the current year are:

(in Rs. Cr.)					
Sr. No.	Name of Welfare Programme/ Schemes for Scheduled Castes(SCs) of DoSJE	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26*
MAJOR SCHEMES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs)					
1	Post Matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes(SCs)	4388.32	5475.42	5562.26	5804.63
2	Pre Matric for scholarship scheme for SCs and Others	207.93	446.65	460.92	432.97
3	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY)	164.00	471.11	736.16	353.18
4	Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)	51.12	81.57	109.98	106.29
5	Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs	324.74	379.98	404.61	365.6
MAJOR SCHEMES FOR OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES (OBCs)					
6	PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM YASASVI) for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economic Backward Classes(EBCs) and De Notified Tribes (DNTs)	1390.02	1329.26	1435.51	796.83
7	Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for OBCs and EBCs	75.3	145.94	157.64	105.34

* As on 12.03.2026

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The total no. of SC/OBC beneficiaries, including women along with the State of Maharashtra under the major Schemes during the last three years and the current year:

Sr. No.	Name of Welfare Programme/ Schemes for Scheduled Castes(SCs) of DoSJE	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26*
MAJOR SCHEMES FOR SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs)					
1	Post Matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes(SCs)	46,47,135	47,38,578	48,04,208	42,84,762
2	Pre Matric for scholarship scheme for SCs and Others	11,34,268	21,29,540	21,65,983	20,56,682
3	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY)	47,567	13,764	5,254	410
4	Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)	16,479	15,816	14,281	8,977
5	Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs	8,435	8,472	10,896	9,308
MAJOR SCHEMES FOR OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES (OBCs)					
6	PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM YASASVI) for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economic Backward Classes(EBCs) and De Notified Tribes (DNTs)	44,07,497	45,70,204	45,46,580	22,48,493
7	Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for OBCs and EBCs	5,729	4,798	3,034	2,524

* As on 12.03.2026
