

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4056
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2026**

PM-YASASVI AND SHRESHTA

†4056. SHRI RAKESH RATHOR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that between the years 2020-21 and 2024-25, there has been a decrease of approximately eighty nine lakh beneficiaries in scholarship schemes for SC, ST and OBC categories, including schemes like PM-YASASVI and SHRESHTA;
- (b) whether mandatory Aadhaar linking, biometric discrepancies and technical glitches on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) have contributed to the exclusion of students;
- (c) if so, the reasons for the nearly 76% decline in Pre-Matric OBC scholarships following the exclusion of Classes one to eight and the steps taken to bridge this gap;
- (d) whether the Ministry is aware of delays in fund disbursement and a lack of coordination between Central and State Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) portals; and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken to prevent these issues from affecting the inclusion goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)**

(a) to (d): The Department is implementing various scholarship schemes including schemes like PM-YASASVI and SHRESHTA for the welfare, educational empowerment and advancement of SC, ST and OBC students.

Continuous efforts such as Aadhaar-based verification, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and the reforms on the National Scholarship Portal are being brought to strengthen scholarship systems so that deserving students receives timely and transparent support to pursue education and improve their career prospects.

Further, from 2021-22, the Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC students was rationalised and a uniform scholarship of ₹4,000 per annum per student was introduced in place of the earlier differential maintenance allowances i.e. Rs. 1,500 per annum to the day scholars and Rs. 5,500 per annum to the hostellers.

In some cases, partial or delayed utilisation of sanctioned funds by the implementing agencies (States/UTs) results in lower expenditure during the year, which may consequently affect the budgetary allocation and coverage of beneficiaries in the subsequent financial year. The Government, however, continues to engage with States/UTs to ensure timely utilisation of funds and wider coverage of eligible students under the scholarship schemes.

Moreover, delays have generally been attributed to various factors such as delayed submission of proposals as per scheme guidelines, late release of matching share by the States/UTs, delayed opening & closing of the scholarship portals of States/ UTs etc. There are also some procedural changes contributing the delay in the release of funds such as switching from SNA to SNA SPARSH platform and compliance of the same by the States/UTs. State Governments/ UT Administrations are disbursing the scholarships through DBT. Ministry is taking measures to on-board the States/UTs on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for faster processing of scholarship applications in order to reduce processing delays and enable Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to beneficiaries.

(e): Some of the measures undertaken by the Ministry for effective implementation of the Schemes are:

- (i) Periodic review of the implementation of schemes through third party evaluation studies;
- (ii) Periodic meetings at National level, Regional level, State level and Field visits by Senior Officers, Chintan Shivirs to review the implementation of schemes;
- (iii) Awareness campaign through electronic and print media, social media, short films on schemes, etc.;
- (iv) To ensure transparency and timely release of funds to the implementing institutions under SHRESHTA, payments are made through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) directly to private residential schools under Mode-1 and to the NGOs working for Scheduled Caste students under Mode-2.
