

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

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 240
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2026**

BENEFICIARIES UNDER PM-AJAY

***240. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH:**

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

- (a) the details of the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) in improving educational outcomes among Scheduled Caste beneficiaries during the last five years;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps under PM-AJAY to strengthen educational infrastructure, including hostels, schools, coaching facilities and other support services for Scheduled Caste students, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated/utilised, beneficiaries covered and outcomes achieved under PM-AJAY for educational development and infrastructure creation?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)**

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 240 for answer on 04.08.2026 raised by Shri Rao Rajendra Singh, regarding beneficiaries under PM-AJAY

(a) to (c): Department of Social Justice and Empowerment implements Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) comprising three components (i) 'Adarsh Gram', (ii) 'Grants-in-aid (iii) Construction/Repair of Hostels. Under Adharsh Gram Component, the development of selected villages is carried out under 10 domains having 50 socio-economic indicators including education. A total of 17,067 villages have been declared as Adarsh Gram wherein 2,65,509 beneficiaries have been saturated under the education domain as on 29.07.2026.

Under the Hostel component of the PM-AJAY, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has provided central assistance to States/UTs and Central Universities/Institutes for constructing new hostel buildings for Scheduled Caste (SC) students with an objective to increase literacy and encourage enrolment of SC students in schools and higher educational institutions by providing adequate residential facilities in quality institutions especially in the aspirational districts/SC dominated blocks and elsewhere in India.

Under the PM-AJAY guidelines specific provisions have been mentioned to enhance quality, safety and accessibility for round-the-clock presence of lady wardens/guards in girls' hostels; provision of in-house coaching, medical care, health camps, IT education and sports coaching; as also ensuring barrier-free access for students with disabilities.

During the last five years (FY 2021-22 to 2025-26), 90 hostels have been sanctioned benefitting 10,649 students. An amount of Rs. 198.50 Crores has been released to States/UTs for construction of SC hostels during last five years.
