

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2687
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2026**

FREESHIP CARD UNDER THE PMS-SC

2687. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR:

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

- (a) the current status of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (PMS-SC) following the end of the 2021–2026 cycle;
- (b) whether the Ministry has extended the guidelines and officially notified, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to continue freeship card in next plan cycle PMS guideline, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the Central and State share funds allocated, released and actually utilized under the PMS-SC, along with the number of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries registered versus those paid, during the last five years Year and State-wise including Bihar; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Ministry to ensure the State Government of Bihar strictly enforces "zero-fee admission" issue Freeship Card under the PMS-SC Scheme guideline to prevent SC students from dropping out of higher education, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) implements Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Caste (SC) Students through the State Government/Administration of Union Territory. The Scheme Guidelines were effective for the FY 2020-21 to 2025-26. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide its OM no. 41(06)/PFC-II/2018(Pt) dated 27.04.2026 has accorded approval for continuation of Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes (SCs) up to 30th September 2026 or till approval of revised Scheme, whichever is earlier. Accordingly, instructions have been issued to State Governments/Administration of Union Territories for continued implementation of the Scheme Guidelines during the extended period.

(c): Yes. The review & revision of scheme is done in consultation with all concerned stakeholders after following the laid down procedure.

(d): The existing funding pattern under the Post Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes (SCs) is 60:40 between Centre and States (90:10 for North-Eastern States). The release of Central share of scholarship is contingent upon State Government/Administration of Union Territory to share the State/UT paid finally verified data on to the National Scholarship Portal. The Scheme is implemented on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode w.e.f 2021-22 through which the benefits are released directly into the Aadhaar Seeded Bank Account of the beneficiaries. The State/UT-wise beneficiaries and disbursement during the last five Financial Years (FYs) across the Country including State of Bihar is at **Annexure**.

(e): The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are the implementing agencies under this scheme. A letter dated 15.12.2025 was issued to the Government of Bihar, requesting them to examine the feasibility of introducing Freeship Cards for Scheduled Caste students on the State Scholarship Portal, in accordance with the Post-Matric Scholarship Guidelines.

Annexure referred to in part (d) of Lok Sabha unstarred Q. No. 2687 for answer on 04.08.2026 regarding Freeship Card under the PMS SC

Central Assistance (CA) released and No. of Beneficiaries under Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes (SCs) during last five Financial Years

Central Assistance (Rs. In Lakh)

Financial Year		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26	
Sl No.	State/UT	CA Released	No.of beneficiaries	CA Released	No.of beneficiaries	CA Released	No.of beneficiaries	CA Released	No.of beneficiaries	CA Released	No.of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	29855	243823	37259	238915	20049.99	195269	60571	303298	51352	345389
2	Assam	-	-	920	11140	1390.34	8426	874	12073	1813	23211
3	Bihar	-	-	3754	136340	2129.34	68975	2397	73615	4518	120957
4	Chandigarh	154	899	242	876	59.25	287	270	1253	287	1095
5	Chhattisgarh	2900	87464	4501	96267	3613.57	79237	3996	87675	5360	96839
6	Daman & Diu	-	-	20	98	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Delhi	-	-	1367	7531	997.34	3160	2219	4692	2974	4950
8	Goa	-	-	0.31152	1	4.31	34	8	58	0.91	7
9	Gujarat	10258	97697	22026	113531	38423.12	179116	39993	157584	28254	95585
10	Haryana	-	-	13158	87913	12058.49	70464	9489	55444	12791	55814
11	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1760	21502	2240.61	23959	3564	33149	1800	13260
12	Jammu & Kashmir	3	100	543	10097	468.21	7370	409	6567	419	6337
13	Jharkhand	412	7805	1818	33922	3139.39	44610	4504	57784	3296	36966
14	Karnataka	6542	131448	34200	458548	42108.48	403965	42290	404008	33422	259550
15	Kerala	4578	90866	5682	42521	11917.31	155319	16070	147531	7260	70128
16	Madhya Pradesh	828	48270	33505	445319	36680.48	346289	48674	636303	49342	409056
17	Maharashtra	6301	68576	35942	148573	165298.17	749317	92992	362808	109580	397924
18	Manipur	-	-	734	8988	193.94	2125	676	7938	436	5215
19	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	25	14	25
20	Odisha	7822	75530	33833	299369	12744.10	143861	18151	191873	31199	248213
21	Puducherry	-	-	361	3904	285.47	2564	320	2694	224	1588
22	Punjab	20976	152157	6281	40708	28486.98	199508	41042	294284	52561	267057
23	Rajasthan	9567	217176	24138	303252	14713.18	151922	18059	229002	22073	318555
24	Sikkim	-	-	76	448	52.29	216	44	172	54	250
25	Tamil Nadu	27888	441672	72625	543772	71369.94	643761	103209	934793	103494	966840
26	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21379	69680
27	Tripura	-	-	3892	22278	4093.43	16858	5161	19849	5422	19538
28	Uttar Pradesh	53728	868554	92600	1269634	67483.28	949934	36602	644827	61764	645967
29	Uttarakhand	-	-	1259	27735	1293.69	23804	1969	26216	2014	26242
30	West Bengal	11226	493099	6336	273953	6248.09	268228	2663	108693	5593	247182
	Total	193038	3025136	438832.31	4647135	547542.79	4738578	556226	4804208	618695.91	4753420