

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3824
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2024

PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

3824. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Pre-Matric scholarships provided to minority students during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has decided to discontinue Pre-Matric scholarships for minority students studying in classes one to eight and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has noted the widespread objection against this decision and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the decision to discontinue Pre-Matric scholarship up to eighth standard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide scholarships to minority students?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a): The details of Pre-Matric scholarships provided to minority students during the last five years, year-wise is as under:

Year	No. of beneficiaries
2019-20	55,68,025
2020-21	52,40,000
2021-22	57,42,627
2022-23	3,18,576
2023-24	Scheme not approved beyond 2021-22.

Source- NSP-NIC database.

(b) to (d): The Ministry of Minority Affairs has been implementing various schemes for socio-economic empowerment of the six (6) centrally notified minority communities viz. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi and Sikh including various educational empowerment Schemes such as (i) Pre-Matric, (ii) Post-Matric (iii) Merit-cum-Means based scholarships. The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the Government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child. Accordingly only students studying in classes IX and X are covered under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Likewise from 2022-23, the coverage under the Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs has also been made for classes IX and X only.

(e): In order to bring transparency and accountability to prevent fraud and misappropriation of funds this Ministry conducted Aadhaar based bio-metric authentication for all applicants and verifying authorities for 2022-23. Aadhaar Payment Bridge System has also been put in place for disbursement of scholarships to the beneficiaries under DBT mode.
