

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:90
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
FREE EDUCATION FOR GIRLS
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether directions have been issued by the Government to the schools to waive fees or the single girl child;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely benefits;
- (c) the reasons for considering such benefits to a single girl child only;
- (d) whether such benefits are proposed to be extended in cases of higher education also; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

9TH POSITION

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 90 ASKED BY SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY, M.P AND SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY, M.P REGARDING 'FREE EDUCATION FOR GIRLS'.

(a) to (c): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has, vide its circular dated 18.10.2005, directed schools affiliated to it to provide full waiver of all fees (including tuition fee and all other fees under any head except the meals & transportation) charged by CBSE affiliated school, to each girl student from class VI onwards who is a 'Single Child' of her parents either with immediate effect or from the next academic session. Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board have been amended accordingly. The Scheme is expected to improve the status of the girl child in general, and the single girl child in particular.

(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. The UGC has decided that no tuition fees will be charged from Single girl children who pursue Masters degree in Universities and Colleges covered under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act.

9th POSITION

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.90 FOR 29.11.2005 ASKED BY SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY, MP AND SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY, M.P REGARDING 'FREE EDUCATION FOR GIRLS'.

NOTE FOR SUPPLIMENTARIES

1. Thrust of the question

The thrust of the question is on free education for girls. It has inter alia being asked about the waiver of fees for the single girl child, likely benefits, it application to higher education and the details thereof;

2. Background of the Scheme

In many countries of the world including India, the girl child is discriminated against from the earliest stages of the life, through her childhood and into adult hood. There are many reasons for this. Amongst other things, indifferent attitudes and practices against girl child including their health and well being.

One of the six basic principal of the governance in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA government is to fully empower women politically, educationally, economically and legally. Keeping in line with this commitment a fresh initiative is proposed to be launched by way of additional scholarships and other incentives to meritorious students, specially to the girls students. These new initiatives have been launched through the agencies under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, mainly UGC and CBSE.

3. Details of the Scheme

In order to discourage indifferent attitudes and discrimination against girl children and to promote education for girl children including their health and well being, the Government of India has launched a new scheme from the year 2005-06 under which the single girl

children of their parents have been provided all fee waiver from class VI and onwards and scholarships to pursue their studies upto PhD level.

4. Broad features of the scheme

(a) Fee waiver :

Under the scheme the CBSE vide circular No. CBSE/AFF/2005/2281-30743, dated 18.10.2005 has directed all government and affiliated schools to provide full waiver of all fees (including tuition fee and all other fees under any head except the meals & transportation) charged by them, to each girl student from class VI onwards who is the 'Single Child' of her parents. The Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board have also accordingly been amended. The amended provisions are applicable to all schools affiliated with the Board. However, already affiliated schools will have a choice to implement these directives either with immediate effect or from the next academic session commencing from 1.4.2006. For Schools seeking affiliation with CBSE, the implementation will be with immediate effect.

(Annexure I)

(b) Scholarship schemes :

(i) CBSE merit scholarship scheme for under graduate students:

Under the scheme 550 scholarships @ Rs. 500/- per month will be provided on class XII CBSE Examination result to pursue post graduate education in non medical and non engineering courses each year.

(Annexure-II)

(ii) CBSE merit scholarship scheme for professional studies :

500 scholarships @ Rs. 1000/- per month to be awarded on the basis of CBSE medical and engineering entrance examinations result each year. Out of this 350 for engineering and 150 for medical students.

(Annexure III)

(iii) The above scholarships were distributed to the girl candidates on 19th November 2005.

5. Other Institutions

This Department has forwarded the copies of the guidelines to all State Education Secretaries with a request to provide information on the schemes undertaken by their governments for the promotion of girl education at both the school and University level. Both the Lawrence Schools (Sanawar and Lovedale) have also been requested vide letter dated 31st October, 2005, to implement this Scheme in the interest of education of girl children. Ministry of Defence has been requested to instruct all their Sainik and Military Schools to implement the Scheme.

6. Benefit to girl student in higher education

The University Grants Commission based on the initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development has introduced a Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarships Scheme for single girl child with the purpose of supporting higher education through scholarship to such girls who happen to be the only child in their families and also to provide incentive for the parents to observe small family norms.

Under the UGC Scheme the selected girl child will be provided scholarship @ Rs. 2000/- per month. Besides, no tuition fees will be charged from such girls for pursuing their masters degree in universities and colleges covered under 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act.

During the year 2005-06 the above scholarships were distributed to the candidates on 19th November 2005.

7. Amendments in affiliation bye laws of Board

For implementation of this Scheme, necessary amendment has been made in the Affiliation Bye laws of the Board whereby additional sub-clause (4), (5) and (6) have been added under Rule 11 of Chapter 2. The relevant sub-clause are reproduced below:-

Clause (4) :- All the affiliated school will grant full waiver of all fees (including tuition fee and all other fees under any head except the meals and transportation fee) from class VI onwards charged by them to each girl student who is also the single child of a parent.

Clause (5) :- the provision of para 4 will be applicable to all schools affiliated with the Board with immediate effect. Provided that the school already affiliated with the Board will have option to implement these provisions from next academic session commencing from 1st April, 2006.

Clause (6) :- For implementation of these provisions, the school may accept the status of the girl children on the basis of an affidavit sworn by the parents. Provided that it will be the responsibility of the concerned parents to intimate to the school any change in the status of such girl child/children in the family, if and when it occurs. Provided further that in case it is detected at any time that the affidavit sworn in by the parents was false, or that they have failed in intimating the school about change in status of the girl child in the family, appropriate action will be taken by the school against such parents, and the CBSE will even consider withholding certificates issued to such child/children. CBSE has issued a Notification on 2.11.2005 in this regard is annexed.

(Annexure IV).

8. Amendment to the existing CBSE Scheme

Government of India has approved the following amendment to the CBSE's Merit Scholarship Scheme with immediate effect for making these more effective and applicable to all single girl students:-

(i) Professional course

(a) Institutions covered: The objective of the CBSE merit scholarship scheme is to provide scholarships for professional education of medicine and engineering in the institutes participating in the CBSE conducted AIPMT and AIEEE or in the Central Govt. Controlled or aided institution to the candidates who have appeared in CBSE PMT and AIEEE examinations.

(b) Single Girl Child (para 3 (b) : All girl candidates, who are also the single child of the parents and are appearing in the merit list of AIPMT/AIEEE shall be given scholarship.

(ii) Non medical/non engineering under graduate course

(a) Girl child para 3

(iv) : 5% of the total number of scholarships shall be available for the girl students, who are the only child of the parents and have secured at least 60% marks in the class XII examination.

(Annexure-V)

9. Implementation

In response to CBSE circulars the affiliated schools have started responding. So far 46 schools have responded for implementation. 8 schools have implemented it with immediate effect. 37 schools have informed that they would implement the scheme from the next academic session 2006-07. 1 school has sought review of the decision. Two protests from school organizations have also been received regarding fee concession to girl children and have requested for its withdrawal. Response from other schools is being received.