

WELFARE SCHEMES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

Posted On: 24 MAR 2026 4:09PM by PIB Delhi

The details of budgetary allocation under the welfare Schemes, scholarships and social protection programmes for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backwards Classes (OBCs) and senior citizens are at **Annexure-I**.

The enhanced funding on loans have increased access to affordable finance for SCs, OBCs and other vulnerable groups, reduced the effective cost of borrowing and promoted self-employment and income-generating activities.

Multiple measures have been taken to improve accessibility and awareness of welfare schemes such as organization of awareness camps, workshops and outreach programmes across States/Union Territories (UTs), use of digital platforms and dedicated portals, and publicity through print, electronic and social media using Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Participation in exhibitions, fairs and stakeholder engagements has also been encouraged to widen outreach. In addition, helplines such as Elderline for senior citizens and awareness generation initiatives for persons with disabilities have been strengthened to ensure better access to information and services.

Several steps have been taken to ensure efficient utilisation of allocated funds. These include implementation of the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) and SNA-SPARSH fund flow system, adoption of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms, and mandatory submission of Utilization Certificates. The Ministry undertakes regular monitoring through review meetings, inspections and digital tracking systems. Fund releases are linked to performance and compliance, and third-party evaluations and audits are conducted periodically to ensure transparency, accountability and effective utilization of resources.

The enhanced allocations and strengthened implementation mechanisms are expected to significantly improve financial inclusion, expand access to welfare programmes and promote entrepreneurship among target groups.

ANNEXURE-I

This Annexure referred to in part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 5093 to be answered on 24.03.2026.

The details of budgetary allocation under the welfare Schemes, Scholarships and social protection programmes of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(Rs. in crore)

Sr.No.	Programme/Schemes	BE 2021- 22	BE 2022-23	BE 2023-24	BE 2024-25
	Schemes for Scheduled Castes				
1	Post Matric Scholarship for SCs	3415.62	5660.00	6359.14	6359.99
Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs					
2	National Fellowship for SCs	300.00	173.00	163.00	188.00
3	National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	30.00	36.00	50.00	95.00
4	Top Class Education for SCs	70.00	108.00	111.00	110.00
5	Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs	50.00	47.00	47.00	35.00
	Total SHREYAS Scheme	450.00	364.00	371.00	428.00
PradhanMantriAnusuchitJaatiAbhyudayYojana (PM AJAY)					
6	Total PM-AJAY Scheme	1800.00	1950.00	2050.00	2140.00
7	Strengthening of machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Right Act 1955 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	600.00	600.00	500.00	550.00
8	Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High School in Targeted Area (SRESHTA) for SC	200.00	89.00	104.65	133.07
9	Pre Matric for SCs and Other	725.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
10	State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	25.00	0.01		
11	Self Employment Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers	100.00	70.00	97.41	116.94
12	VISVAS Yojana (SC)	100.00	50.00	0.01	6.01
13	Venture Capital Funds for SCs	100.00	70.00	70.00	10.00
14	PradhanMantriDakshatKushaltaSampannHitgrahi	60.00	40.00	43.73	65.00

	Total	7575.62	9393.01	10095.94	10309
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2. Schemes for Social Defence

1	AtalVayoAbhyudayYojana-GBS	300.00	150.00	294.97	260.00
2	Assistance to Voluntary Agencies for Welfare of Scheduled Castes – Scheduled Caste Welfare Fund			410.14	279.44
3	National Action Plan on Drug Demand Reduction	260.00	200.00	311.00	314.00

Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood & Enterprise (SMILE)

4	Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars	50.00	15.00	20.00	30.00
5	Scheme for Tansgender Persons	20.00	30.00	52.91	68.46
	Total	630.00	395.00	678.88	951.90

3. Schemes for Backward Classes

PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM YASASVI) for OBCs, EBC

1	Pre Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes and Denotified Tribes	250.00	478.00	281.00	210.00
2	Post Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes and Denotified Tribes	1300.00	1083.00	1087.00	921.00
3	Boys & Girls Hostels for Other Backward Classes	30.00	20.00	30.00	40.00
4	Top Class School for Other Backward Classes			100.00	150.00
5	Top Class College for Other Backward Classes			90.00	515.00

Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for OBCs and EBCs

6	Interest Subsidy on Education Loans for Overseas Studies for OBCs and EBCs	30.00	27.00	29.00	25.00
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7	National Fellowship for OBCs and EBCs	100.00	53.00	57.00	55.00
	Other Schemes				
8	VISVAS Yojana(OBCs)	50.00	30.00	0.01	4.01
9	Venture Capital Fund for Backward Classes	20.00	40.00	22.00	40.00
10	PM DAKSH Yojana OBC Component	40.00	44.00	48.74	65.00
11	Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNTs(SEED)	50.00	28.00	40.40	39.40
	Total	1870.00	1803.00	1785.15	2064.4
4	Information, Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit	25.00	19.50	20.00	10.00
5	PM Cares			10.00	8.50
	Total of all Schemes of the Department	10100.62	11610.51	12589.97	13343

This information is given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

SM/HK

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