

## **Press Brief for media**

The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on 'Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Minority students', Government of Kerala, (Report No.3 of the year 2024) has been laid on the table of Kerala Legislative Assembly on 11 July 2024. Audit Reports, upon their presentation to the Legislature are public documents.

The summary of the important points highlighted in the Report is given below:

### **Pre-Matric Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Caste students**

- During the period 2017-22, no survey or study was conducted by the Scheduled Caste Development Department to identify the potential beneficiaries of Pre-Matric scheme. Ten *per cent* of SC students against an enrolment of 4,16,717 in 2017-18 and 12 *per cent* against an enrolment of 4,12,840 in 2020-21 did not receive Pre-Matric scholarship (Lumpsum grant) for the period 2017-21.
- The e-grantz portal did not register any student from the SC category from the 379 schools registered in Sampoorna software, due to which 3,499 students were excluded from the scheme.

***(Paragraph 2.3.1.1)***

- An amount of ₹3.60 crore remitted by 5,828 SC students of Kendriya Vidyalayas towards enhanced rate of Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi was not reimbursed to them by Government.

***(Paragraph 2.5.5)***

### **Post-Matric Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Caste students**

- State lost ₹96.65 lakh for the period 2017-22 due to non-claiming of fund for administrative expenses from Central Government.

***(Paragraph 3.4.3)***

- In the selected districts, non-processing of scholarship applications at institutional/ Directorate level resulted in non-payment of scholarship to 1246 students during 2018-21 (461 at institutional and 785 at Directorate level).

***(Paragraphs 3.5.1 and 3.5.2)***

- Verification of e-grantz data in selected districts revealed that there was delay ranging from one to five years in disbursement of various components of Central and State scholarship schemes.

*(Paragraph 3.5.3)*

- Discrepancies were noticed in the implementation of scholarship for overseas studies as well as book bank scheme.

*(Paragraphs 3.5.5 and 3.5.6)*

- 1,222 Divyang students studying in Higher secondary classes (2020-22) were not given admissible 10 *per cent* additional amount of scholarship, resulting in short payment of ₹3.06 lakh to the students.

*(Paragraph 3.5.8.1)*

- Eligible students studying in institutions of national importance like IIT Palakkad and IIM Kozhikode did not receive scholarship due to indecision of SC Development Department.

*(Paragraph 3.5.8.4)*

#### **Pre-Matric Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Tribe students**

- For the period 2017-22, Scheduled Tribes Development Department did not maintain data pertaining to eligible beneficiaries based on a survey or study to identify the potential beneficiaries. Four to 20 *per cent* of ST students did not receive Pre-Matric scholarship (Lumpsum grant) for the period 2017-21.

*(Paragraph 4.3.1.1)*

- Government did not submit any proposals to claim Central fund for administrative expenses amounting to ₹15.89 lakh during the period 2017-22.

*(Paragraph 4.4.4)*

- In Pre-Matric Central Scholarship scheme for ST students in classes IX and X (2019-22), 1247 applications pertaining to selected districts were pending at the Directorate without payment, after approval by the institutions and district offices.

*(Paragraph 4.5.1)*

- In the selected districts for the period 2019-22, in 8806 instances, there was delay of one to two years in disbursement of various components of Centrally sponsored Pre-Matric scheme.

*(Paragraph 4.5.2)*

#### **Post-Matric Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Tribe students**

- In the selected districts, 336 and 198 applications for scholarship for the period 2018-22 were pending with the institutions and Directorate respectively.

*(Paragraphs 5.5.1 and 5.5.2)*

#### **Pre and Post-Matric scholarship schemes for Minority students**

- The Director of General Education did not furnish Utilization certificate to Ministry of Minority Affairs for Pre-Matric scholarship fund received for the year 2014-15.

*(Paragraph 6.3.3)*

- Instances of more than two members in a family availing Pre and Post-Matric scholarships and students availing more than one scholarship under Centrally sponsored Post-Matric scheme were noticed.

*(Paragraphs 6.4.4 and 6.4.5)*