

## **Frequently asked questions for Mode-2 of the Free Coaching Scheme for SC and OBC Students**

**Q.1-** What is the objective of the Scheme?

**Ans.-** The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and succeed in obtaining an appropriate job in Public/Private Sector.

**Q.2-** What are the courses for which coaching can be taken under the Scheme.

**Ans.-** The coaching can be taken for following courses under the Scheme-

- i) Group A and B examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the various Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs);
- ii) Group A and B examinations conducted by the State Public Service Commissions;
- iii) Officers' Grade examinations conducted by Banks, Insurance Companies and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);
- iv) Premier Entrance Examinations for admission in (a) Engineering (eg. IIT-JEE), (b) Medical (eg. NEET), (c) Professional courses like Management (eg. CAT) and Law (eg. CLAT), and (d) Any other such disciplines as Ministry may decide from time to time.
- v) Eligibility tests/examinations like SAT, GRE, GMAT and TOEFL.
- vi) Entrance examination tests for CPL courses/ National Defence Academy and Combined Defence Services.

**Q.3-** What are the total Number of students which will be assisted in the Scheme and what is the distribution of slots in the various courses?

**Ans.-** A total of 2000 students will be assisted in this Mode-2 of the Scheme. 60% of total available slots (1200 students) shall be allotted to the courses for which qualifying exam is graduation (Bachelor's level). 40% of total slots (800 students) shall be for the courses for which qualifying exam is Class 12.

**Q.4-** What is the number of students of each category to be assisted in the Scheme?

**Ans.-** The ratio of SC and OBC students to be coached under the Scheme will be 70:30 (1400 and 600 students respectively). In case of non-availability adequate number of candidates in a particular category, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment can relax this ratio.

**Q.5-** Who is eligible to apply in the Scheme?

**Ans.-** Only students belonging to SCs and OBCs having total family income from all sources of Rs.8.00 lakh or less per annum will be eligible for benefits under the Scheme. However, SC/OBC candidates belonging to a Minority community shall not be eligible under this scheme and can apply under the similar scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.

**Q.6-** What is the guideline to be followed for income certificate?

**Ans.** Following guideline shall be followed for income certificate-

Income declaration of self-employed parents/ guardian should be in the form of a certificate issued by Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar. Employed parents/guardians are required to obtain income certificate from their employer. Employed parents/ guardians should obtain consolidated certificate from Revenue Officer for any other additional source of income.

**Q.7-** What is the different amount of stipend given under the Scheme?

**Ans.** Monthly stipend of Rs. 3000/- per student will be paid for local students for attending the coaching class. Similarly, Rs.6000/- per student will be paid per month for outstation students. The stipend will be paid till the duration of the course or for one year, whichever is less. The stipend to each student shall be paid directly by the Ministry through DBT.

In addition to the stipend above, the students with disabilities would also be eligible for Special Allowance of Rs. 2000/- per month towards reader allowance, escort allowance, helper allowance etc. having valid disability certificate (equal to or more than 40% disability).

**Q.8-** Are there any minimum marks criteria for applying under the Scheme?

**Ans.-** The students must have secured the minimum marks in the qualifying examination of the competitive exam for which coaching is sought, as prescribed in the guidelines of the said competitive exam. However, if the student has still not appeared for the said qualifying examination, or if the student has appeared and the result has not been declared, the marks obtained in the Board/Degree exam just prior to the qualifying exam shall be taken into account. If the number of eligible applications received is more than the given slots, the selection will be done in the decreasing order of the marks obtained in the qualifying exams.

**Q.9-** Who can apply for what course of coaching exam?

**Ans.** For the competitive exams for which the qualifying exam is class 12th, benefits under the scheme will be available to a candidate only if the candidate has passed class 12th or is studying in class 12th as on the date of receiving the benefit under the scheme. Further, in case of competitive exams for which the qualifying exam is at bachelor level, only students/candidates having completed the bachelor level course or studying in the final year of the bachelor degree course at the time of receiving the benefits under the scheme shall be eligible.

**Q.10-** How many times can one avail the benefit under the Scheme?

**Ans.-** Benefits under the Scheme can be availed by a particular student not more than twice, irrespective of the number of chances he/she may be entitled to take in a particular competitive examination. The student will be required to submit an affidavit that he/she has not taken benefit more than twice under the Scheme.

**Q.11-** Can one person simultaneously avail the benefit of similar other Scheme of Central/ State Government.

**Ans.-** The candidate shall be precluded from availing any other scholarship benefits of similar scheme of the Centre or State Governments. The candidate will be required to upload an affidavit indicating that he/she is not availing scholarship from any other similar scheme of the Centre/State. A list of beneficiaries availing the scheme will also be uploaded on the website of the Ministry and shall be shared with States/UTs to avoid possibility of simultaneous availing benefits of similar scheme by the candidate.

However, where the competitive examination is conducted in two stages viz. Preliminary and Mains, the candidates will be entitled for free coaching for both the examinations. They will be entitled for free coaching upto two times each for Preliminary and Main examinations as per their convenience. However, there will be no restriction in number of chances for coaching for Interview, if the candidate is selected for interview.

**Q.12-** What is the maximum amount of fee can one student receive under the Scheme.

**Ans.-** The maximum fee per course has been prescribed in Annexure-1 of the Scheme guidelines.

**Q.13-** How can one apply under the Scheme?

**Ans.** The applicants shall, after assessing their eligibility and suitability as per the eligibility conditions of the Scheme, will be required to apply online on this Ministry's portal, i.e. [coachingmsje.gov.in.](http://coachingmsje.gov.in), along with details of course he/she intends to join.

**Q.14-** What is the last date of application under the Scheme?

**Ans.-** The last date of application under the Scheme in 2020 is 30.09.2020.

**Q.15-** What is the criteria for selection of students under the Scheme?

**Ans.-** The criteria for selection is Merit of the students.

**Q.16-** How will the release of first installment of assistance to be made to the students?

**Ans.** The course fee shall be released to the account of the beneficiary candidate in two instalments through DBT mode. This will be done as per following process-

After the selection and verification of credentials of the candidates an "Open Assurance" letter shall be issued to candidates stating therein the name of candidate selected, rank no, details of fee amount to be given under the scheme. This will be used by Candidates to contact coaching institute in which he/ she wants to attend coaching. On receipt of admission confirmation/assurance from the Institute; the Candidate will upload the same on the online portal. The first instalment of 50% of the eligible amount will be released immediately thereafter.

**Q.17-** How much time will a student get to take admission in coaching institute after receiving first installment?

The candidate will be required to join the selected course within 6 months of the release of the first instalment.

**Q.18-** How will the remaining fee/ second installment of fee will be released to the students?

**Ans.-** The remaining fee will be reimbursed after receiving proof of joining of institute by the candidate and deposition of the amount released as first instalment by the candidate to the institute.

**Q.19-** What is student has not taken admission within 6 months after receiving of first installment of fee?

**Ans.** If the first instalment of the fee amount is not paid to the selected institute within a period of 6 months, this amount will have to be returned to the Government and second instalment will not be eligible. The candidate will be required to submit an affidavit in the prescribed pro forma that he/she would take admission in the coaching institute of his/her choice within six months of receiving the first instalment of coaching fee failing which he/she would return the money to the Ministry immediately.

**Q.20-** Will Ministry give any letter to clarify that it will pay second installment after joining the course?

**Ans.** To facilitate the candidate, a letter will also be issued alongwith the 1st instalment of funds release indicating that the balance fee shall also be paid to the candidate after joining the course.