

(Effective from 15.07.2020)

1. BACKGROUND

This scheme for construction of hostels is one of the means to enable and encourage students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) to attain quality education. Such hostels are immensely beneficial to the students hailing from rural and remote areas of the country. While the scheme of construction of hostels for SC girls is in operation from the Third Five Year Plan (1961-66), the same for boys was started with effect from the year 1980-81.

2.OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

The primary objective of the revised scheme is to attract implementing agencies for undertaking construction of hostels, especially for SC girls, towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of their dropout rate. The other objectives are (i) having a girls/ boys hostel with a capacity of 100 seats, in every block headquarters of low literacy districts not having one as of now, by way of priority, (ii) repairing and proper maintenance of hostels, and (iii) having an effective mechanism for monitoring, review, etc.

3.IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND THEIR ELIGIBILITY

3.1 The scheme is implemented through the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and the Central & State Universities/ Institutions. These implementing agencies are provided eligible central assistance as per provisions of the scheme, for fresh construction of hostel buildings, for expansion of the existing hostel facilities and for periodic repair and maintenance of the hostels constructed under this Scheme.

3.2 The proposal for construction/ expansion/ repair & maintenance of hostels by State Universities/ Institutions shall be submitted to the respective State Government/ UT Administration who, in turn, would forward the same along with their recommendations to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India for release of grants-in-aid as per provisions of the Scheme.

3.3 Likewise, the proposal of Central Universities/ Institutions shall be submitted to the Ministry through their Administrative Ministries/Departments along with their recommendations for release of grants-in-aid under the Scheme.

4.LOCATION AND SCOPE OF HOSTELS

4.1 While sanctioning hostels, priority may be given to areas having concentration of SC population of 15% and more, and without adequate hostel facilities for SC students. Preference will be given to integrated hostels (part of established educational institutions) over stand-alone hostels.

4.2 State Governments, while selecting schools for construction of hostels will give priority to top performing Government schools not having any hostel at present.

4.3 In case of girls, the hostels will be located in areas having low SC female literacy. The girls hostels will be constructed in close vicinity (of the educational institution).

4.4 Focus will be given on construction of hostels for middle and higher secondary levels of education. However, hostels can also be constructed under the scheme for college and university levels of education.

4.5 The construction of boundary walls, two rooms set quarter for hostel wardens and one room set for Chowkidars/ Lady Guards would be an integral part of the scheme.

5. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

5.1 The Central Government will provide eligible central assistance to implementing agencies as per provisions of the scheme, both for fresh construction of hostel buildings and for expansion of the existing hostel facilities.

5.2 The Government will also provide admissible grants to the eligible implementing agencies for repair and maintenance of operational hostels sanctioned under the scheme, once in five years after operationalization thereof.

6. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS/ OTHER IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

6.1 The implementing agencies will provide suitable land for construction/expansion of hostels under the scheme free of cost.

6.2 While seeking central assistance, these agencies will be required to submit all the prescribed documents to the Ministry alongwith the proposals preferably by 15th May as per the Annexures -I & II.

6.3 The State Governments will be responsible for operationalization of the hostels constructed under the scheme and monitoring of their activities.

6.4 In case of girls' hostels, the State Governments and implementing agencies concerned will have to ensure availability of lady wardens and lady guards.

6.5 Facilities like in-house coaching, medical care, periodic health camps, IT education, sports coaching, etc. to the students may also be provided in convergence with schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments of the Centre/State.

6.6 Any expenditure on construction and repair & maintenance of hostels over and above the admissible central assistance will be borne by the implementing agencies concerned from their own budget.

6.7 As regards maintenance of the students, the expenditure may be met in convergence with schemes of concerned Ministries/Departments of the Centre/States, e.g. Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme, etc.

7. STRENGTH OF THE HOSTELS

The capacity per hostel should not normally exceed 100 students. In exceptional cases, hostels with larger capacities (maximum upto 250 students) can be considered. Each hostel room should accommodate at least 2-3 students. No single room accommodation would be provided in the hostels constructed under the scheme.

8. COST NORMS**8.1 For Construction:**

(a) The cost norms for construction/expansion of girls and boys hostels will be as under:

(i)	North Eastern Region	: Rs.3.50 lakh per inmate
(ii)	Northern Himalayan Regions	: Rs.3.25 lakh per inmate
(iii)	Gangetic Plains & Lower Himalayan Region	: Rs.3.00 lakh per inmate

(b) In addition to the admissible central assistance under the Scheme, a one-time grant of Rs.5000/- per student would also be provided for making provisions of a cot, a table and a chair for each student and for common facilities like Television, Computer, Kitchen equipment, etc. This one-time grant shall be released after utilization of central assistance provided by the Government alongwith matching share of implementing agency, if any, for construction, and completion of construction of the hostel in all respects.

8.2 Infrastructure Maintenance:

Central assistance for repair and maintenance of the operational hostels will be provided to implementing agencies, once in every five years after operationalization of the hostel. It will be limited to a maximum of Rs.5.00 lakh for one hostel of 50 inmates, Rs.10.00 lakh for 100 inmates, Rs.15.00lakh for 150 inmates and so on. Central assistance for repair and maintenance shall be provided for the SC hostels constructed under BJRCY by the State/ UT Governments and Central & State Universities/ Institutions.

9. FUNDING PATTERN**9.1 For Girls Hostels:**

100% central assistance would be provided to the State Governments/ UT Administrations and Central & State Universities/ Institutions, as per the cost norms prescribed in *para-8 here-in-above*.

9.2 For Boys Hostels:

- (a) 50% central assistance would be provided to State Governments on matching share basis.
- (b) 100% central assistance to UT Administrations.

- (c) 90% central assistance to Central Universities/Institutions. The remaining 10% cost is to be borne by the Central University/ Institution concerned.
- (d) For State Universities/ Institutions, the central assistance would be 45%. The remaining 55% cost is to be borne by the State University/Institution and the State Government/UT Administration concerned in the ratio of 10:45.

Note: In case the State Governments/ UT Administrations concerned do not contribute their expected share of 45% to the State Universities/ Institutions as prescribed above, the share of the former will also have to be borne by the Universities/ Institutions, by raising their contribution to 55%.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

10.1 A Steering Committee consisting of following officers will monitor and review the progress of construction/ completion of hostels regularly based on the progress reports:

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| (a) | Joint Secretary (SCD-B), SJ&E | - Chairperson |
| (b) | Representative of State Government/ Implementing Agency | - Member |
| (c) | Representative of Ministry of HRD | - Member |
| (d) | Director/ Deputy Secretary (SCD-B), SJ&E | - Member |
| (e) | Under Secretary (BJRCY), SJ&E | - Convener |

10.2 Periodical review meetings with the representatives of State Governments and other Implementing Agencies would be conducted to monitor the progress of construction. The functioning and occupancy status of hostels will also be monitored post-construction. Implementing Agencies shall be required to submit annual occupancy status as per Annexure -V. While submitting new proposals, the State Governments/UT Administrations will furnish physical & financial progress reports of the hostels sanctioned earlier, mandatorily as per Annexure I.

10.3 For the purpose of effective monitoring, the Ministry/Steering Committee may itself conduct or cause field visits by appropriate agencies/authorities to inspect the projects.

10.4 The Committee may invite experts as special invitees, as and when it deems necessary.

10.5 An independent third-party outcome evaluation will be done periodically.

11. IMPLEMENTATION PATTERN

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment can suitably modify the implementation modalities, without changing the basic framework of the Scheme, as and when required, with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice & Empowerment.

12.MANNER OF RELEASE OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE

Construction/ expansion of hostel building:

12.1 The central assistance will be released by the Ministry in two equal instalments for each hostel.

12.2 The first instalment, i.e. 50% of the sanctioned amount will be released to the implementing agencies at the time of sanctioning the project.

12.3 The second and final instalment will be released upon receipt of physical and financial progress reports along with photographs of the site as per Annexure-I, after: (i) completion of construction work at least upto roof level, and (ii) full utilization of the amount of first instalment of grants-in-aid released by the Ministry of SJ&E together with the matching share, as applicable, by the implementing agencies concerned.

12.4 The admissible grants-in-aid to the implementing agencies would be released to them directly.

12.5 In case of expansion of a girls' hostel, the implementing agency may confirm availability of lady wardens & guards while submitting the proposal.

12.6 One-time Grant for cot, table, etc. will be released as indicated in *para 8.1(b) here-in-above* on production of completion certificate of hostels.

Repair and Maintenance:

12.7 The central assistance for repair and maintenance of hostels would be released on demand and receipt of proposal as per Annexure-IV. While the State Governments and UT Administrations may submit the request to the Ministry directly, the Central & State Universities-Institutions are required to submit their proposals as per procedure prescribed in *parts-3.2 & 3.3 here-in-above*.

12.8 Such proposals should necessarily be accompanied by the detailed cost estimate given by PWD/CPWD/ Central or State Government construction agencies, as the case may be and should be as per SOR of the State Government.

12.9 Detailed list of students staying in the hostel should also accompany the proposal.

12.10 At the time of submission of the proposal, hostel must be operational and having minimum occupancy of 50% total inmates sanctioned with at least 70% of these being SC students.

12.11 The hostels for girls must have lady wardens and lady guards in place. The implementing agencies may undertake to ensure their availability while submitting proposal for repair and maintenance of these hostels.

13. GENERAL PROVISIONS

13.1 Separate applications should be submitted for SC Girls and Boys hostels in the prescribed formats (*Annexures- I to II*). Wherever applicable, the application shall be supported by physical and financial progress reports of the hostels sanctioned earlier under

the scheme. Request for release of repair and maintenance cost may be sent by the implementing agencies in the proforma prescribed for the same(*Annexure-IV*).

13.2 In case of a proposal for construction/ expansion, the implementing agencies may furnish proof documents of ownership & occupancy of land mandatorily where the hostel is to be constructed/ expanded and to confirm that the same is in their actual possession. They may also certify that the land is free from any encumbrance and encroachment as well as devoid of any dispute.

13.3 If after release of grant, there is a need for change of location where the new hostel is to be constructed, due to any dispute etc., the implementing agency may submit a request alongwith the land documents of the proposed new location. Amount of central assistance already released should not be utilized by the implementing agencies until approval of the Ministry of S&E is obtained for the change of location.

13.4 Standard design with costing norms should be developed as benchmark for approving the hostel projects by each State/UT for central assistance under the scheme.

13.5 A few rooms/blocks of the hostels should be constructed barrier free and facilities like ramps etc. be incorporated in the design of construction for convenience of the students with disabilities.

13.6 It shall be mandatory for the educational institutions concerned to provide 70% reservation to SC students in the hostels created under the scheme. The intention of the present scheme is not to segmentize the students on caste lines, but to have an integrated and inclusive student community system, with a positive leaning towards the Scheduled Castes.

13.7 Priority in allotment of hostel accommodation should be given to SC students whose parents are either 'Safai Karamcharis' or engaged in unclean occupations.

13.8 No fee or charges of any kind will be collected from the SC students for making provision of the hostel facilities.

13.9 A proposal for hostel construction/expansion, attached with existing educational institution viz. school, college, university etc., shall necessarily be accompanied by a detailed list of students belonging to the target group in the existing roll of feeder institutions and a copy of the stated policy & commitment of the institution regarding its action plan for implementation of the reservation norms. These details will be subject to scrutiny by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In case of proposal for a stand-alone hostel, list of feeder institutions or number SC students available in the existing roll of these institutes or list of SC students in the existing roll of these institution may be provided.

13.10 The implementing agencies shall closely supervise the hostel construction work regularly and submit quarterly progress reports, both physical and financial, to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment till the completion thereof. For the purpose, the State Governments may provide training to the officers involved in supervising the hostels.

13.11 The hostels shall be completed within a period of two years from the date of sanction of the project. While submitting proposals for release of central assistance, the

implementing agencies shall give a time frame about the completion of construction which shall be in any case, not more than the maximum prescribed period.

13.12 Implementing agencies will give wide publicity for admission of students in the hostels through newspapers, television, etc. They will also develop a grievance redressal mechanism for hostel inmates under intimation to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

13.13 Availability of lady Wardens and Watchmen in girls hostels constructed under the scheme will be mandatory and the implementing agencies will ensure the same.

13.14 Implementing agencies, through their concerned State Governments/ Administrative Ministries/ Departments, may submit reports regarding percentage of occupancy, facilities available in the hostels(including availability of lady wardens and watchmen in girls' hostel), outcomes like academic performance, etc. to the Ministry periodically.
