

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -3007
ANSWERED ON - 26/03/2025

OVERSEAS EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

3007. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the total number of students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Nomadic and Denotified Tribes (NT/DNT) who have received scholarships to study abroad during the last five years, year-wise and category-wise;
- (b) the rationale behind the drastic budget cut for the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) for Scheduled Tribes from ₹6 crore to ₹0.01 crore in the budget; and
- (c) whether Government has increased the number of scholarships in proportion to the rising number of Indian students studying abroad, as recommended by the Thorat Committee, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

- (a) Number of students who have received scholarship under the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) being run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for study abroad during the last five years is as under:

S.No.	Selection Year	Number of SC, ST and NT/DNT students who have received scholarships under NOS for studying abroad during last five years		
		SC	NT/DNT	ST
1.	2019-20	39	01	11
2.	2020-21	63	05	12
3.	2021-22	95	02	17
4.	2022-23	93	03	18
5.	2023-24	107	03	16
Total		397	14	74

(b) As per the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme (NOS) for Scheduled Tribes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs was approved for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The total budgetary outlay for this period was ₹20 crore. However, total expenditure incurred by the Ministry is ₹21.95 crore up to current Financial Year 2024-25. Thus, the Ministry has spent five-year budget within four years resulting in provision of less amount in the budget under the Scheme for Financial Year 2025-26. To address the funding shortfall and to sustain the Scheme in Financial Year 2025-26, the Ministry has initiated the process of obtaining EFC approval for additional funds.

(c) Under the NOS Scheme, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment slots have been increased from 30 to 60 in the year 2013-14, 60 to 100 in 2014-15 and 100 to 125 in 2021-22 and under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs slots have been increased from 15 to 20 in 2012-13.
