

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025**

Scholarships and talent search in Odisha

1136 Smt. Sulata Deo:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

whether the Ministry will increase the number of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarships and National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) awards allocated to Odisha?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHOUDHARY)**

The Central Sector Scheme 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' is being implemented, with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation / renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum. State and UT has fixed allotted quota. Number of awards allocated to Odisha State under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme is 3314.

The number of scholarships under the National Talent Search Scheme (NTSS) was previously increased from 1,000 to 2,000 in 2019. The scheme is also reviewed to enhance features, including increased coverage, to preserve the aspirational nature of the scholarship.
