

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1946**  
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025

**Fee waivers for IISER Students**

1946. Smt. Dharmshila Gupta:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Ministry is aware that income-based tuition fee waivers and financial aid schemes are available to economically disadvantaged students in centrally funded technical institutions such as IITs and NITs;
- (b) reasons why such income-based waivers or financial aid mechanisms are currently unavailable to students enrolled in the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs);
- (c) reasons for this disparity in policy among centrally funded institutions of national importance; and
- (d) whether Ministry proposes to take steps to ensure parity in financial aid provisions, including the extension of income-based fee waivers to students of IISERs?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

**(a) to (d):** The Government of India is committed to provide equitable access to the highest-quality education across the country to all sections of the society. To make higher education affordable in educational institutions, relaxations in tuition fee of Under Graduate (UG) program is provided to the vulnerable sections of the society. In addition to the above, these institutes also provide stipends and fellowships to the students pursuing Post Graduate (PG) program and PhD respectively as per the eligibility.

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) are autonomous bodies which are governed by their respective Acts and Statutes thereunder. The Acts empower the institutions in fixing, demanding and receiving fees and other charges.

In addition to this, students are encouraged to avail financial assistance under various schemes of Central Government, like Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, Ishan Uday Special Scholarship Scheme for North Eastern Region (NER), scholarship schemes of other Ministries, like, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, such as the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana, INSPIRE Scholarship offered by the Department of Science & Technology, etc. Additionally, institutions also encourage students to apply for eligible scholarships given through National Scholarships Portal (NSP) of Central Government. The Government of India spent around Rs. 10,695 crores on 95 lakh students in the year 2024-25 for Post-Metric and Higher Education scholarships.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has also implemented PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme which seeks to provide financial support to meritorious students of quality Higher Educational Institutions in the form of collateral free and guarantor free education loans to cover full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course. Additionally, under this scheme, for students with annual family income up to Rs 8 lakhs and who are not eligible for benefits under any other government scholarship or interest subvention schemes, 3 % interest subvention for loan up to Rs 10 lakhs to be provided during moratorium period.

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