

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO - 404
ANSWERED ON – 01/04/2026

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP TO SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS

404. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU

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

- (a) the details of the overseas scholarship provided to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the country for studying abroad during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government has taken any new initiative during the last three years for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes; and
- (c) the total number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes are studying abroad with the help of social welfare measures?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *404 for answer on 01/04/2026 regarding “OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP TO SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS”

(a) Under the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, total 125 slots annually have been earmarked, out of these 125 slots, 115 for Scheduled Castes (SC), 6 for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/SNT), and 4 for Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans (LA/TA) have been earmarked.

The number of Scheduled Caste students selected and gone abroad under the Scheme during the last three years are as under:

S.No.	Selection Year	Total number of slots	No of Scheduled Castes candidates selected	Scheduled Castes students Gone Abroad
1	2022-23	125	119	93
2	2023-24	125	117	107
3	2024-25	125	115	70
Total		375	351	270

(b) The following new initiatives have been taken under the scheme during last three years:

1. Capping of 10 percent of total slots for each State/UT has been provisioned. This enables wider regional representation and ensures that eligible candidates from different parts of the country are able to avail the benefits of the Scheme, thereby promoting inclusivity and balanced access at the national level.

2. To ensure greater accuracy in the application process, provision of ‘Correction Window’ for a four-day period after the date of final submission of applications has been made to enable the candidates to rectify the mistakes, if any, made in the application.

3. Submission of Income Tax Returns along with Centralized Processing Centre intimation, where Gross annual family income of the candidate for a financial year is more than Rs. 2.5 Lakh, has been made mandatory to enhance transparency and credibility of selection process.

4. Regular engagement with Embassies and Consulates has been encouraged to address issues faced by students studying abroad in a timely manner.

5. The funds are now released to respective Embassies in advance through Letters of Authorization (LoAs) to ensure timely disbursement of scholarship.

(c) Currently, 240 Scheduled Caste students, including 69 girls, are pursuing studies in 13 countries under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Others.
