

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2995
ANSWERED ON 13/08/2026

COVERAGE OF INSPIRE SCHOLARSHIP IN WEST BENGAL

2995 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the district-wise number of schools and students participating in INSPIRE-MANAK in West Bengal during the last three years, number of districts covered under the scheme and the dropout rate between district-level selection and State-level exhibition in the State compared to the national average; and
- (b) whether Government is aware that the State has received only 362 INSPIRE scholarship for Higher Education awards during 2024-25, barely 3 per cent of the 12,000 annual national slots, against a population share of 7.3 per cent, implying a shortfall of over 500 scholarships annually and if so, the reasons for this underperformance?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) The INSPIRE-MANAK Scheme is implemented across all districts of the country through nominations received from schools. During the last three years, all 23 districts of West Bengal have been covered under the Scheme, ensuring participation from every district in the State. Under the Scheme, schools nominate students with innovative ideas. Selected students receive financial support to develop their ideas and participate in the District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC). Based on merit and the approved selection norms of the scheme, the best projects from the DLEPC are shortlisted for participation in the State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC). The district-wise details of the number of schools and students participating in the INSPIRE-MANAK Scheme in West Bengal during the last three years, covering all 23 districts of the State, are given below:

District	Schools Participated			Nomination Received			Student Selected		
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Alipurduar	2			5					
Bankura	5	3	1	10	12	5		2	
Birbhum	2	2	1	7	10	5	2		
Cooch Behar	2	1	1	9	5	5			2
Dakshin Dinajpur	14	10	6	53	39	25	2		2
Darjeeling	1			5					
East Medinipur	13	8	4	42	26	10	4	2	3
Hooghly	3	2	1	12	5	5		1	

District	Schools Participated			Nomination Received			Student Selected		
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Howrah	10	4	8	36	14	22	3	1	1
Jalpaiguri	8	4	1	29	20	5		2	
Jhargram		1			3				
Kalimpong	3			7					
Kolkata	17	6	11	59	27	43	7	2	8
Maldah	4	2	2	11	6	7			
Murshidabad	3	1	1	12	5	5	1		
Nadia	12	4	3	44	14	10	2	1	2
North 24 Paraganas	5	3	4	14	6	9		2	5
Paschim (West) Burdwan (Bardhaman)	1			1					
Purba Burdwan (Bardhaman)	7	5	4	28	23	14	4	1	4
Purulia	9	4	8	31	10	25			1
South 24 Paraganas	7	3	8	31	15	25		3	3
Uttar Dinajpur	2			5					
West Medinipur	11	2	2	38	6	9	2	1	

(b) INSPIRE-SHE is a merit-based national scholarship programme and does not provide for State-wise quotas or allocation based on population share. The selection of scholars is carried out under the Board Inclusive Model, wherein allocation is made on a pro-rata basis according to the share of valid applications received from each recognized Education Board against the total valid applications received nationally. Scholarships are thereafter awarded based on merit as per the approved selection norms. Accordingly, the number of scholarships awarded to students from West Bengal depends on the eligible applications received from the respective Education Boards and the merit of applicants. Hence, no shortfall is assessed with reference to the State's population share.
