

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2504  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2016**

**SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

**2504. SHRI GEORGE BAKER:**

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the salient features of the revamped Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC);**
- (b) the number of countries included under this programme;**
- (c) the details of the funds likely to be sanctioned for this programme;**
- (d) whether the Government is planning/proposing to increase the number of scholarships; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]**

- (a) After a review of DPDC in 2015-16, it was revamped from academic year 2016-17 with the following highlights:**
  - The Scheme has been extended from 40 to 66 countries including 17 ECR countries.**
  - The number of scholarships has been increased from 100 to 150 with 50 slots earmarked for the Children of Indian Workers in ECR counties. Of these 50 slots, 1/3rd of slots are reserved for children of Indian workers in ECR countries studying in/outside India.**
  - Income criteria is raised from \$2250 to \$4000 applicable to all categories of students.**

- **Scholarship will be offered for pursuing courses in:**
- **Central Universities of India offering Under Graduate Courses;**
  - **Institutions accredited “A” Grade by NAAC; and**
  - **Institutions covered under DASA Scheme: National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and other premier institutions.**
- **Information Technology, B.Sc (Nursing) and B.Pharma have been added to courses eligible for scholarships.**
- **As an e-governance mechanism, a portal [spdcindia.gov.in](http://spdcindia.gov.in) has been developed to enable online application and processing.**
- (b) The number of countries included in this programme is 66.**
- (c) As per BE 2016-17 Rs.6 Cr is allocated for this programme.**
- (d) & (e) No.**

\*\*\*\*\*