

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3899
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018**

Allocation of Scholarships

3899. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the 'SAKSHAM' scheme, which provides merit and need based scholarships for differently abled students has met its target during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the State-wise allocation of scholarships under the scheme; and
- (d) the number of students from Kerala who have been beneficiaries of the scheme ?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) & (b) Saksham Scholarship Scheme was launched in 2014-15, with the objective of encouraging economically weaker differently abled students to pursue technical education at Diploma and Degree levels. Scholarship amount of Rs. 30,000 is provided towards tuition fee reimbursement and Rs. 20000 as contingency allowance. Under the scheme, 1000 scholarships per annum are available. Number of application received from eligible candidates under the scheme every year, remained low despite wide publicity. Year-wise details of applications received are given in the table below:

Year	Number of applications received under the scheme
2014-15	179
2015-16	169
2016-17	362

A committee of experts was set up, to suggest measures for improving the performance of the scheme. The committee recommended that a provision be made under the scheme to support differently abled student for purchase of Aids and Assistive Devices, in cases where tuition fee was either exempted or less than Rs.30,000/-

As the number of application received during 2016-17 still remained low, the scheme was again amended in 2017, to remove the restriction of Centralized Counselling as a criterion for selection, making differently abled students, who were directly admitted to All India Council for Technical Education approved institutions, also eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- (c) There is no state-wise allocation of scholarship under the scheme.
- (d) The number of students from Kerala who have been beneficiaries of the scheme are:

Year	Students
2015-16	02
2016-17	02
Total	04
