

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *311
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2018**

SCHOLARSHIPS TO MINORITY STUDENTS

***311. DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:**

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many deserving minority students have been denied scholarships with the change in disbursement of funds from manual to Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount of funds that remained unused due to technical difficulty in DBT scheme; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to overcome the technical difficulties in DBT scheme?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
(SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *311 asked by Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad regarding “Scholarships to Minority Students”

(a) & (b): No, Madam. In fact the disbursal of funds to eligible minority students under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) has resulted in the following benefits for all stakeholders including the target beneficiaries:

- (i) Timely and hasslefree disbursement of scholarships directly to students.
- (ii) Disbursal of scholarships done in fair and transparent manner.
- (iii) Ensuring scholarship to genuine beneficiaries.
- (iv) Elimination of duplication and prevention of misuse of government funds.
- (v) Create a detailed database of beneficiaries.

(c) The National Scholarship Portal (NSP) was launched in 2015 for implementation of scholarship schemes of 2015-16 and disbursement of scholarship under DBT mode. Initially there were some technical glitches on NSP and they have been resolved now. While some budgetary saving was observed in 2016-17, which included removal of duplicate and fake applications having been weeded out, no eligible beneficiary verified by the processes was denied the benefit of scholarship during 2016-17 and succeeding years.

(d) Any technical issue/difficulty, faced by any stakeholders, is addressed immediately by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) that has developed the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for implementation of scholarship schemes. The Helpdesk and Helpline number have also been provided for redressal of technical issues for all stakeholders. Ministry of Minority Affairs has put in place a robust complaint redressal system/mechanism to address any concern of any stakeholder including the target beneficiaries.
