

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 794
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 12/12/2022

NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP

794. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the funds released for National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students during the last three years and the number of applications received;
- (b) the eligibility criteria and income ceiling under the Scheme;
- (c) the subjects/disciplines in which courses may be undertaken for grant of Scholarship and the duration of award with financial assistance;
- (d) whether it is a fact that over the years the Scholarship Scheme has failed to get suitable candidates, as a result the funds for the Scheme remain largely underutilised and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to change the eligibility criteria and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the lack of coordination between the Ministries has failed to reach the benefits to the beneficiaries and whether flexibility has been introduced for courses of study to be undertaken by the students and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a): The funds released for National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students during the last three years and the number of applications received is given below:-

Year	Fund released (in crore)	Applications received
2019-20	2	154
2020-21	4.76	215
2021-22	4.95	283

(b): The eligibility criteria and income ceiling is given in **Annexure-1**.

(c): The subjects/disciplines for grant of Scholarship and the duration of award with financial assistance is attached as **Annexure-II**.

(d) to (f): Under the scheme, 20 students are selected every year. The following table will show that 20 students have been selected in all 3 previous years.

Year	No. of candidates selected	No. of candidates proceeded for foreign study	Fund released (in crore)
2019-20	20	17	2
2020-21	20	4	4.76
2021-22	20	14	4.95

Previously, the selected candidates were given a time of period of 2 years to join the foreign university / institute of their choice. 35 students out of 60 have already joined till date and the remaining students have time to join of 2 years from the date of issuance of merit list.

In order to ensure more students join the course, the guidelines have been recently amended and students who have already got admission will be eligible also for the scholarship and time of 2 years will be given to those who have not yet secured admission. It can also be seen that the release of funds under the scheme has increased from Rs.2.00 Cr. In 2019-20 to Rs.4.95 Cr. in 2021-22.

The scheme National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe is implemented through the Indian Embassies / Missions abroad, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). There is a coordination between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs in implementing the scheme. The selection of the candidates is being done by the M/o Tribal Affairs and the scheme benefits are disbursed through the MEA. The M/o Tribal Affairs reimburses the bills raised by the MEA in respect of payments made to NOS awardees.

The scheme guidelines have given the flexibility to ST students to select the University and subject of their choice for pursuing their higher studies abroad. Based on the specific requirement of selected students Ministry considers their requests on case to case basis in consultation with the India embassies in the respective countries. Further, in case any seats remained unfilled, these seats will be carried forward in subsequent year so that no seats remain unfilled.

Annexure – I refer part b) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 794 dtd 12.12.22 reg. National Overseas Scholarship raised by Sh. Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka.

ANNEXURE-I

THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND INCOME CEILING UNDER THE SCHEME

(i). QUALIFICATION

Sr. No.	Course	Marks and educational qualification	Maximum Age as on 1st July of selection year
1	Post-Doctoral Research	55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree* with awarded Ph.D.	38 years
2	Ph. D	55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree	35 years
3	Master's Degree	55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelor's Degree.	32 years

Note: The criteria of marks obtained in Bachelor's/Master's Degree will not apply to those candidates who have already obtained admissions in top 1,000 Institutes as QS World ranking of the latest available report.

(ii). ONE CHILD IN A FAMILY AND ONE TIME ASSISTANCE

Not more than one child of the same parents will be eligible and the candidate has to furnish a self-certification to this effect. An individual is eligible for only one award and cannot be considered for any other award or same/higher level of award for the second time under the Scheme

(iii). INCOME CRITERIA

Scholarships will be paid to the students whose family income from all sources does not exceed Rs.6,00,000/- (Rs. Six lakhs only) per annum.

Annexure – II refer part c) Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 794 dtd 12.12.22 reg. National Overseas Scholarship raised by Sh. Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka.

Annexure-II

THE SUBJECTS/DISCIPLINES IN WHICH COURSES MAY BE UNDERTAKEN FOR GRANT OF SCHOLARSHIP AND THE DURATION OF AWARD WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Subjects covered under the scheme

The subjects/disciplines in which student can opt for studies abroad and the number of slots available under each field for grant of award are listed below: -

Field of study
Pure/Applied Science/ Engineering/Technology/Mathematics (STEM)
Management, Economics, Finance, Law
Agriculture/Medicine
Humanities/Social Science/Fine Arts

Duration of award

Financial assistance will be provided till completion of the course/research or the prescribed duration of the course, whichever is earlier: -

Sl. No.	Course	Maximum Duration
1	Post-Doctoral Research	2 years
2	Ph. D	4 years (four years)
3	Master's Degree	1 or 2 years (One/Two years) depending upon the type and duration of the Course.

Value of scholarship

Sl. No.	Scholarship Component	Details
1	Annual Maintenance Allowance	The Annual maintenance allowance in USD 15,400 (\$ Fifteen thousand four hundred only) in US/ Pound sterling 9,900 (£ Nine thousand nine hundred only) in United Kingdom for all level courses. For other countries, the USD or equivalent rates would be applicable.
2	Annual Contingency and Equipment Allowance	The Annual Contingency and Equipment Allowance for books/essential apparatus/study tour/typing and binding of thesis etc. will be \$ 1532 (US Dollars One thousand five hundred thirty-two only) for the candidates in US and for candidates in United Kingdom, it will be £ 1116 (Pounds sterling One thousand one hundred sixteen only). For other countries, US Dollar or equivalent rates would be applicable.

3	PollTax	Actuals shall be paid, wherever applicable
4	VisaFees	Actual visa fees in Indian Rupees will be paid.
5	Incidental Journey Expenses	Incidental journey expenses up to US Dollars 20 or its equivalent in Indian Rupees are permissible.
6	Fees	Tuition fees and other non-refundable fees which is required to be compulsorily paid by the student for completion of the course, as per actuals.
7	Medical Insurance Premium	Actuals as charged will be admissible. The Indian Embassy/Mission in the respective country will however examine the reasonableness of medical premium opted/claimed by the student.
8	Cost of Air Passage	Air passage grant on actual basis from India to the nearest place to the educational institution and back to India, by economy class and shortest route at best available price shall be provided.
9	LocalTravel	Second class railway fare from the port of disembarkation to the place of study and back; in case of far flung places not connected by rail, bus fare from the place of residence to the nearest railway station, actual charge of crossing by ferry, air fare to the nearest rail-cum-air Station will be permissible.
