

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4162
ANSWERED ON-27-03-2023**

Means-cum-Merits Scholarship Schemes in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra

**4162. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:
SHRI ARUN SAO:
SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:
SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI:**

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for selection of beneficiaries under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS);
- (b) the number of beneficiaries benefitted under the said scheme during the last three years in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra especially in Bilaspur, Mungeli and Gaurela-Pendra Marvahi districts in Chhattisgarh and latur district in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of the scheme in aforesaid States as well as to create awareness among the people about the scheme?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a): The Central Sector Scheme 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' (NMMSS) is being implemented with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation / renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum. Students with parental income not exceeding Rs. 3.50 lakhs per annum are eligible to avail the scholarships under the scheme.

Selection of fresh Awardee Students:

Each State/UT conducts its own test for selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship. The cost for conduct of NMMSS examination is reimbursed to States and UTs. The test is conducted at stage of class-VIII. The students, who fulfill the eligibility criteria (pass class VII with minimum 55% for general candidates and 50% for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates), must pass both the tests, i.e., Mental Ability Test (MAT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) under NMMSS with at least 40 % marks in aggregate taken together for these two tests. For the SC/ST students, this cut off is

32% marks. The scheme is fully on boarded on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) from 2018-19 onwards. The selected Students have to register on NSP to get the benefit of scholarship.

Selection of Renewal Awardee Students:

The awardees should get minimum of 60% marks in Class X for continuation of scholarship relaxable by 5% for SC/ST candidates in next higher classes. For continuing the scholarship in class X and XII, the awardees should get clear promotion from class IX to class X and from class XI to class XII in the first attempt.

(b) The funds are released through Public Financial Management System (PFMS). The scheme is covered under DBT since 2014 and the scholarship amount is released directly to the beneficiaries. The district wise data is not maintained by the Ministry of Education.

The details of number of scholarships awarded under the National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) during last three years 2019-20 to 2021-22 are as under :-

S.No.	Name of State/UTs	Number of Scholarships (Financial Year wise)		
		F.Y. 2019-20	F.Y. 2020-21	F.Y. 2021-22
1	Chhattisgarh	622	919	1434
2	Maharashtra	30035	59152	36424

(c) Two Vartalap (Rural Media Conference) were organized by the Press Information Bureau viz: in Fatepur District, Uttar Pradesh on 29.11.2022 and in Jagdalpur City of Bastar District, Chhattisgarh on 21.12.2022 and information about National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) was disseminated. Further, a banner for NMMSS was prepared and sent to Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 30.09.2022 for spreading awareness in all Panchayats. This Ministry issues yearly directions to all State and UT Governments to publicize the scheme at school level through print/electronic mode etc. Steps taken for awareness creation include:-

(i) Ministry takes review meetings with State Nodal Officers periodically when the NSP portal is open for registration & advises them to create awareness.

(ii) Cabinet Secretariat, DBT Mission takes fortnightly review meetings during the period of registration on NSP Portal.

(iii) Two physical workshops were held by Department of School Education and Literacy during 2022-23 on 20.09.2022 and 10.03.2023 to orient the State Nodal Officials about NSP registration, verification and dissemination of relevant information.

(iv) Webpage on NMMSS <https://dsel.education.gov.in/scheme/nmmss> is available on Ministry of Education website.

(v) All States/ UTs are made aware about the operative timelines on NMMSS on NSP through Social Media page of Ministry of Education such as Facebook and Twitter.

(vi) A dedicated helpline number i.e. 0120-6619540 and email ids helpdesk@nsp.gov.in; scholarship-section@gov.in are shared with State and District officials as well as students to clear their doubts regarding registration on NSP Portal and other issues relating to NMMSS.