

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 4361
ANSWERED ON-27-03-2023**

Schemes/Projects to develop the Hidden Talent in Poor Students at Schools/Colleges

†4361. **SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:**

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

- (a) the details of the schemes/ projects being implemented by the Government to develop the hidden talent of poor students at the school and college level in the country especially in the rural areas of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a special fund for this purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise in Maharashtra; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): The details of the schemes/ projects being implemented by both Departments under Ministry of Education, Government of India, at school and college level in the country are as follows: -

1. Department of School Education and Literacy:

(i) National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS).

Objective: The Central Sector Scheme 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' 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.

Eligibility criteria: Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 3,50,000/- per annum are eligible to avail the scholarships. The students must have

minimum of 55 % marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination for appearing in selection test for award of scholarship (**relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students**). The students, who fulfill the eligibility criteria, must pass both the tests, i.e., Mental Ability Test (MAT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) under NMMSS exam 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 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.

Scholarship rate: The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum.

Online Portal: The scheme is fully on boarded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) from 2018-19. The Ministry sanctions funds from Annual Budget Provision for releasing them to SBI, the implementing bank for the scheme for disbursement of scholarships to students directly into their bank accounts by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

(ii) Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme provides for opening of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district of the country including Maharashtra state to provide good quality modern education, free of cost to the talented students predominantly from rural areas. Almost all the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are located in rural areas.

Total **2,93,354 students** are enrolled in 649 functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas of the country. Although the reservation for rural students is at least 75%, **87.23 % (2,55,896)** students belong to rural areas are enrolled in NVS. Total **15,597 students** are enrolled in 34 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas of Maharashtra state as on 28.02.2023, out of which **13,170 (84.44 %)** students belong to rural areas.

2. Department of Higher Education:

(i) **CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (CSSS).**

Objective: Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for pursuing higher studies to eligible meritorious students.

Eligibility: Students who are in top 20th percentile of successful candidates in class XII and having family income upto Rs. 4.5 lakh p.a. are eligible to apply. 82,000 fresh scholarships are available for award every year (41000 for boys and 41000 for girls). These have been divided amongst the State Education Boards based on the State's population in the age group of 18-25 years.

Scholarship rate: The rate of scholarship is Rs. 12,000/- p.a. for the first three years and Rs. 20,000/- p.a. for the fourth and fifth year.

Online Portal: CSSS has on-boarded the National Scholarship portal (www.scholarships.gov.in) with effect from 1.8.2015. The scheme is covered under the DBT w.e.f. 1.1.2013 wherein the scholarship is disbursed directly into the bank account of beneficiaries.

(ii) CENTRAL SECTOR INTEREST SUBSIDY AND CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME (CSIS)

Objective: The objective of the Scheme is to ensure that no one from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), including minorities, SCs/STs, women and disabled, is denied access to professional higher education only for the reason that he or she is poor.

Eligibility: Students enrolled in professional/ technical courses from National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited Institutions or professional/ technical programmes accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA) or Institutions of National Importance or Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs) are eligible. Those professional institutions/ programmes which do not come under the ambit of NAAC or NBA require approval of the respective regulatory body. The interest subsidy is admissible only once either for Under Graduation or Post Graduation or integrated courses. The scheme is intended to cover all those students belonging to EWS, with an annual parental/ family income up to Rs. 4.5 lakh per year.

Online Portal: Every year an online portal is opened by the Canara Bank to enable the member banks to upload the interest subsidy claims. Disbursement of interest subsidy claims is done through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode into the student's Education Loan account.

(b) to (d): Does not arise.
