

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 572  
ANSWERED ON – 24-07-2023**

**Schemes for Poor Students**

**†572. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:**

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

- (a) the details of schemes/ projects being implemented by the Government to develop hidden talents of poor students at schools and colleges level in rural areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to constitute a fund specially meant for this purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and also the district-wise details of 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 without regard to their socio-economic background. Almost all the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are located in rural areas.

As on 31.03.2023, total **2,93,588** students are enrolled in 649 functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas of the country. Although the reservation for rural students is at least 75%, **87.28 % (2,56,255)** students belong to rural areas are enrolled in NVS. Total **15,592** students were enrolled in 34 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas of Maharashtra state as on 31.03.2023, out of which **13,215 (84.76 %)** students belong to rural areas.

## **2. Department of Higher Education:**

### **Schemes implemented by the Scholarship Division under the umbrella scheme “Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsanhan [PM-USP] Yojana”**

(i) **Central Sector Scholarship Scheme for College and University Students (CSSS):** Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for pursuing higher studies to eligible meritorious students. 82,000 fresh scholarships are available for award every year. These have been divided amongst the State Education Boards based on the State’s population in the age group of 18-25 years. 50% scholarship slots are earmarked for the girl students. 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. CSSS has on-boarded the National Scholarship portal ([www.scholarships.gov.in](http://www.scholarships.gov.in)) with effect from 1.8.2015. The eligible pass-out students from the Academic Year 2015 onwards are required to apply online for fresh and renewal scholarship

through the portal. Total 16684 students were awarded scholarship under the scheme in 2022-23.

**(ii) Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS):-** 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. 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. Under the Scheme, full interest subsidy is provided during the moratorium period (course period plus one year), on the educational loan up to Rs. 7.5 lakh, from Scheduled Banks including Co-operative & Regional Rural Banks, under the Model Educational Loan Scheme of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Disbursement of interest subsidy claims is done through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode into the student's Education Loan account. Every year an online portal is opened by the Canara Bank to enable the member banks to upload the interest subsidy claims.

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

\*\*\*\*\*