

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1704
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

NTSE and Expenditure on PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha

1704 **Smt. Mala Roy:**

Shri Manickam Tagore B:

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

- (a) whether it is true that National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) has been suspended during the last three years due to lack of funds, if so, the reasons thereof;
- (b) the total amount allocated for the NTSE scholarship programme during the last three years;
- (c) the Government's current stance on providing academic and financial support to talented students from underprivileged backgrounds through programmes like NTSE;
- (d) the total expenditure on the PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha programme including the associated costs, and the rationale for the allocation of such funds on such programmes during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government intends to reconsider its funding priorities to ensure the continuation and revitalization of programmes like NTSE, which provide direct academic support to students, especially in the light of growing concerns over academic progression and future career prospects among deserving students?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e): The National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) is conducted by NCERT under the National Talent Search Scheme (NTSS) which has been in operation since 1963 to identify and reward students with exceptional ability and aptitude. A third-party evaluation report on NTSS was submitted by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to this Department in February 2021. The evaluation report and ensuing examination revealed several limitations in scheme design and implementation such as persistent under-

representation of rural areas, girls and certain States among scholarship awardees, lack of access to examination centres due to long travel distance, insufficiency of financial assistance, ineffective nurturance and inadequate dissemination of scheme. Consequently, the scheme and its major components have been undergoing comprehensive review to align it with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and to address key limitations constraining its effectiveness, impact and reach.

The Central Government has increased Budget allocation of Ministry of Education (MoE) from Rs. 93,224 Crore for the year 2021-22 to Rs. 1,04,278 Crore for the year 2022-23 to Rs. 1,12,899 Crore for the year 2023-24 and Rs. 1,21,118 Crores in the year 2024-25 for various activities of the Ministry, which shows that there is no lack of funds. At the same time, Rs 60 Crore was allocated for disbursing scholarship to 22,719 students from FY 2021-22 to FY 2024-25.

The allocation for NTSS during the last three and current financial year is as follows:

Financial Year	Financial Allocation (Rs. in Crore)
2021-22	13.62
2022-23	20.00
2023-24	15.00
2024-25 (upto 5.3.2025)	11.50
Total	60.12

The National Education Policy points out that there are innate talents in every student, which must be discovered, nurtured, fostered, and developed. It also advocates for creating a supportive and inclusive environment where such students receive mentorship, specialized programs, and opportunities for deeper exploration in their areas of interest. The policy also stresses the importance of collaboration with experts and institutions to ensure that gifted students are given the necessary resources and guidance to reach their full potential and excel alongside their peers. The Government of India is committed towards providing support to talented students and gifted students.

The Government of India also implements the 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS); a Central Sector Scheme which awards scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue study at secondary stage. Under NMMSS, one lakh fresh scholarships @ Rs.12000/- per annum are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their

continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools.

The total expenditure incurred on Pariksha Pe Charcha during the last five years is given below:

Year	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in Crore)
2020	5.69
2021	6.00
2022	8.16
2023	27.70
2024	16.83

Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) normalises the process of examination in the life of a child by providing a conducive platform for students, parents and teachers to share examination related issues, anxiety and anecdotes. In the process, they get an opportunity to gain practical insights, tips and motivation from the Hon'ble PM and experts from various fields to handle the stress and pressure surrounding examinations. Participation of more than 5 crore students, teachers and parents in the latest PPC underscores the need for such a programme. Expenditure as indicated above is incurred on various components including hospitality for children travelling from all across the country and overall organisation of the event.
