

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2531
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025**

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

2531. Shri Arun Bharti:
Shri Navaskani K:
Shri C N Annadurai:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and the key features of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS);
- (b) the total number of students who have benefitted by the Scheme in the country during the last three years including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the details of funds allocated, sanctioned and disbursed under the scheme since January 2020, year-wise and State/UT-wise including Bihar;
- (d) whether the Government has identified any challenges in the implementation of the scheme and if so, the step taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any measures to ensure effective monitoring, transparency and timely disbursement of scholarships under the scheme across the country including Bihar and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is any plans of the Government to increase the number of scholarships, revise eligibility criteria or enhance the scholarship amount to support more meritorious students from weaker sections and if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the details of the measures taken by the Government to increase awareness about the NMMSS among eligible students in Bihar;
- (h) whether the Government is considering to increase the allocation for Bihar under the Scheme to cater the rising demand of scholarships in the State and if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) whether disbursement of NMMSS in Bihar have improved access to education among underprivileged students and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHOUDHARY)**

- (a) The objective of Central Sector 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest

their dropout at class VIII and encourage them to continue their study at secondary stage upto Class XII. One lakh fresh scholarships @ of Rs.12000/- per annum per student is awarded to selected meritorious students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X, XI and XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided or Local body schools. Each State/UT is allotted a fixed quota for selection of meritorious students. The scheme provides reservation to different categories of students as per the State/UT norms. The selection of students for award of scholarships under the scheme is made through an examination conducted by the State/UT Governments. The scheme is boarded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for receipt of applications of students in on-line mode. Scholarships are disbursed directly by electronic transfer into the accounts of students through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

- (b) 7,16,407 number of students have benefitted by the Scheme in the country during the last three years from 2021-22 to 2023-24 including Tamil Nadu.
- (c) The details of funds allocated, sanctioned and disbursed under the scheme since January 2020, year-wise is given at Annexure –I and State/UT-wise number of scholarships sanctioned including Bihar is given at Annexure -II.
- (d) For streamlining and fast-tracking release of scholarships, NMMSS is completely boarded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) since 2018-19 to deliver scholarships with efficiency, transparency and reliability. Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB) gateway is used for disbursement of scholarship through NSP in DBT mode. It is a unique payment system, which uses Aadhaar number as a central key for electronically channelizing the scholarship amount in the Aadhaar seeded Bank Account of the beneficiary. Benefits of APB System include elimination of delays and transfer of benefits in a seamless, timely manner and directly into the Aadhaar seeded Bank Account. All the eligible candidates across the country have to register themselves on NSP to avail the scholarship under NMMSS. But technical glitches due to frequent revisions of NSP and revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) still prevail and therefore, poor students from rural areas are not able to adapt themselves to the system. Connectivity in remote areas is another major issue in implementation of scheme at ground level.
- (e) Ministry of Education continuously engages with NSP Team and DBT Mission in Cabinet Secretariat, which is directly monitoring implementation of scholarship schemes boarded on NSP. The Ministry is regularly organizing virtual/physical orientation sessions with the State/District & Institution Nodal Officers on the modalities for registering, biometric authentication and verification of applicants on the NSP for NMMSS scheme. The Ministry is also operating a Helpline No. 011-23383363 for registering and resolving the complaints/grievances of students, teachers, parents & Nodal Officers. Grievance Redressal Mechanism is also available on NSP, which is integrated with CPGRAMs, for resolving the complaints of students.

- (f) The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) had approved continuation of the scheme after enhancing the amount of scholarship from Rs.6000/- to Rs.12000/- per annum in 2017-18 upto 2020-21. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved continuation of the scheme from 2021-22 upto 2025-26.
- (g) The Ministry of Education conducts workshops and virtual orientation sessions with all States/UTs, including Bihar, to take suitable measures for promoting awareness among eligible students. Besides the forum of PIB Vartalap, social media is used for dissemination about the scheme features and NSP operations.
- (h) Any modification in allocation for scheme is considered after due deliberation with State/UT. There is no proposal at present to increase the number of students for scholarships for Bihar.
- (i) Based on the Third-Party Evaluation of NMMSS conducted by Institute of Economic Growth in 2020, it was observed that the scheme has been received well by the meritorious students from the economically disadvantaged sections of the society in all States/UTs including Bihar. This scholarship helps eligible students to pursue their secondary and senior secondary education without any economic hindrance. The meritorious children from economically backward sections of remote and rural areas are not only benefited during their secondary and senior secondary stages of education, but also feel motivated and inspired to compete academics without burdening their parents.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2531 asked by Shri Arun Bharti, Shri Navaskani K., Shri C N Annadurai, Hon'ble Member of Parliament to be answered on 17.03.2025 regarding "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme"

Statement showing funds allocation and year-wise number of scholarships and funds sanctioned under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) during the years 2020-21 to 2023-24.

S.No.	Financial Year	Budget Allocation (Rs. in crore) R.E.	Amount Sanctioned on Scholarships (Rs. in crore)	Number of Scholarships (Fresh +Renewals)
1	2020-21	350.00	319.09	267503
2	2021-22	284.20	248.15	206794
3	2022-23	307.45	299.91	259524
4	2023-24	358.00	300.10	250089

Note : Funds under the scheme are not allocated to States/UTs but transferred directly to bank accounts of the beneficiaries

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in Part (c) of the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2531 asked by Shri Arun Bharti, Shri Navaskani K., Shri C N Annadurai, Hon'ble Member of Parliament to be answered on 17.03.2025 regarding "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme"

Statement showing State wise and year-wise number of scholarships and funds sanctioned under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) during the years 2020-21 to 2023-24.									
S.No.	Name of State/UTs	F.Y. 2020-21		F.Y. 2021-22		F.Y. 2022-23		F.Y. 2023-24	
		Number of Scholarships (Fresh+Renewal)	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Number of Scholarships (Fresh+Renewal)	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Number of Scholarships (Fresh+Renewal)	Amount (Rs in lakh)	Number of Scholarships (Fresh+Renewal)	Amount (Rs in lakh)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	129	15.48	129	15.48	141	16.92	143	17.16
2	Andhra Pradesh	9063	1087.56	7451	894.12	7366	883.92	9900	1188.00
3	Telangana	5112	613.44	4315	517.80	4373	524.76	3672	440.64
4	Arunachal Pradesh	117	14.04	112	13.44	303	27.96	144	17.28
5	Assam	2291	273.48	2403	288.36	3813	457.56	4931	591.72
6	Bihar	15670	1862.76	10029	1203.48	14140	1676.70	12749	1529.88
7	Chandigarh	322	38.64	173	20.76	204	24.48	234	28.08
8	Chhattisgarh	919	110.28	1434	172.08	25070	2029.74	3190	382.80
9	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	67	8.04	78	9.36	144	14.04	107	12.84
10	Delhi	8102	972.24	2368	284.16	2367	284.04	2718	326.16
11	Goa	90	10.80	77	9.24	79	9.48	178	21.36
12	Gujarat	15899	1907.88	13027	1563.24	13536	1624.26	14307	1716.84
13	Haryana	10540	1264.80	6806	816.72	7200	864.00	7256	870.72
14	Himachal Pradesh	3356	402.72	2973	356.76	3068	368.16	3003	360.36
15	Jammu & Kashmir	3135	376.20	2462	295.44	2794	335.28	2221	266.52
16	Jharkhand	1339	160.68	1588	190.56	2166	259.92	2466	295.92
17	Karnataka	13298	1595.76	12242	1469.04	13075	1569.00	14183	1701.96
18	Kerala	13031	1563.72	12810	1537.20	13321	1598.52	13574	1628.88
19	Ladakh	#	#	#	#	#	#	112	13.44
20	Lakshadweep	-	*	-	*	-	*	8	0.96

21	Madhya Pradesh	14511	1595.71	15521	1862.52	17459	1981.98	16585	1990.20
22	Maharashtra	59152	7090.20	36424	4370.88	37730	4527.60	37953	4554.36
23	Manipur	130	15.60	105	12.60	154	18.48	291	34.92
24	Meghalaya	304	36.48	85	10.20	122	14.64	155	18.60
25	Mizoram	277	33.24	219	26.28	728	59.64	291	34.92
26	Nagaland	659	79.08	-	*	-	*	65	7.80
27	Odisha	13978	1677.36	8713	1045.56	9354	1122.48	10267	1232.04
28	Puducherry	398	47.76	370	44.40	375	45.00	381	45.72
29	Punjab	5010	596.70	4556	546.72	5124	614.88	5729	687.48
30	Rajasthan	11198	1329.72	9964	1195.68	16035	1924.20	14407	1728.84
31	Sikkim	98	11.76	92	11.04	137	16.44	157	18.84
32	Tamil Nadu	26932	3231.84	22215	2665.80	22801	2736.12	23183	2781.96
33	Tripura	464	55.62	458	54.96	729	87.48	962	115.44
34	Uttar Pradesh	5141	616.86	5772	692.64	9837	1180.44	16528	1983.36
35	Uttarakhand	3637	436.44	1386	166.32	1730	207.60	2123	254.76
36	West Bengal	23134	2776.08	20437	2452.44	24049	2885.88	25916	3109.92
Total		267503	31908.97	206794	24815.28	259524	29991.60	250089	30010.68

* Proposal not received from State/UT Governments.

Laddakh included in Jammu & Kashmir State.