

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4667**

**ANSWERED ON- 28/03/2025**

**EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS FROM ODISHA**

**4667. SMT. SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO**

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-**

- (a) the details of international scholarships and student exchange programmes available for students from Odisha;**
- (b) the total number of students from Odisha who have benefited from Indian Government-sponsored international education programmes during the last three financial years;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take initiatives to establish cultural centres abroad that highlight Odisha's rich heritage, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to facilitate tie-ups between Odisha's universities and foreign educational institutions?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)**

**(a) It is not the practice to offer international scholarships nor conducts student exchange programs exclusively for students from Odisha, or any other state. However, the Department of Social Justice and Law awards National Overseas Scholarships to Indian students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans category etc. from low income groups for pursuing higher education abroad. It also disseminates information about available foreign scholarships and nominates candidates by inviting applications on the SAKSHAT Portal of the Ministry of Education when the scholarship-extending Government, so requests. The final selection of candidates for such scholarships rests with the donor country/Government.**

**(b) Not Applicable**

**(c) Government of India through its Cultural Centres abroad showcases and promotes Indian cultural heritage, including that of Odisha, in foreign lands. Indian Missions/Posts abroad also engage with the Indian Diaspora abroad from different states including Odisha to celebrate and promote India's rich cultural heritage under the Promotion of Cultural**

**Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs.**

**Government of India, in partnership with the State Government of Odisha, recently celebrated the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar from January 08-10, 2025 where the rich cultural heritage and artistic legacy of Odisha were demonstrated.**

**(d) Government of India does not maintain State-wise record of tie-ups of educational institutions.**

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