

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.534  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2026

**NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

**534. DR. PRABHA MALLIKARJUN:**

**Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether only forty out of one hundred and six selected candidates for the 2025–26 cycle under the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme have been issued provisional award letters due to shortage of funds;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in release of funds and the expected timeline for full disbursal;
- (c) whether the ongoing evaluation (16th cycle) includes a review of stipend adequacy, administrative delays, and student feedback mechanisms; and
- (d) the steps taken to implement the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment's recommendations regarding increasing the number of slots and improving timelines under SC/ST scholarship schemes?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

- (a) & (b): Provisional award letters have been issued to all the one hundred and six selected candidates in the first round of selection year 2025-26 under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes etc.
- (c) & (d): The National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes etc. and Scheduled Tribes have been approved for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Review of schemes which also covers component of financial assistance, follows a laid down procedure and the revision is done in consultation with stakeholders including concerned Ministries/Departments.

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