

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 880
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2026**

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS (MPH)

880. SHRI N K PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide stipend to Master of Public Health Students (MPH) in Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram treating them equivalent to the students of various institutes doing the post graduate course entitled to stipend and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government analyzed the difficulties of MPH students studying in Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram due to non-payment of stipend and if so, the details of action taken to resolve the same;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include MPH students in the ambit of stipend payment which is available to other post graduate courses in similar medical institutions and if so, the details of action taken thereon; and**
- (d) whether the students in other institutions during MPH is entitled for stipend and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

- (a) The Master of Public Health (MPH) programme at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram is treated as an academic public health programme and not a residency-based clinical postgraduate course. MPH students do not provide any clinical services. Clear policy distinction exists between residency-based clinical postgraduate courses and academic postgraduate programmes. There are no specific Government Orders or Guidelines mandating stipend for MPH programmes.**

(b) The students admitted to the MPH at SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram, are fully aware that the course is a non-stipendiary academic program and, as such, there is no issue regarding non-payment of stipends. However, to address the difficulties of needy students, the Institute facilitate the eligible students to avail financial assistance under existing Government scholarship schemes such as E-Grantz and other applicable non-professional course scholarships.

(c) The National Medical Commission (NMC) Post-Graduate Medical Education Regulations (PGMER), 2023, mandate stipends only to clinical specialties. Currently, there is no such proposal to include MPH students under the stipend scheme applicable to clinical postgraduate courses in medical institutions.

(d) In general, MPH programmes across institutions such as All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Central Universities, State Medical Colleges and other Institutes of National Importance are treated as non-stipendiary academic programmes. However, limited and selective support in the form of scholarships and tuition fee waiver is provided in certain institutions like National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Public Health Foundation of India (IIPHs) for students enrolling in MPH course.
