

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:146  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2008  
NATIONAL TALENT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has decided to Start National Talent Scholarship Scheme to check the problem of drop-outs in the schools in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has released any financial assistance under the scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

- (a)&(b) Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28.02.2007 has announced a National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme to arrest the drop out rate and to encourage meritorious, but poor students to continue their education beyond class VIII. The scheme provides for scholarship of Rs.500/- per month to students studying in classes IX to XII.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.