

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2645
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced a scholarship scheme for students belonging to socially and economically weaker sections and meritorious students to prevent truancy among such students;
- (b) if so, the details along with the number of students likely to be benefited under the scheme during the current plan period, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to further strengthen the scheme throughout the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Central Government has introduced a National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme to arrest the drop out rate and to encourage meritorious students belonging to weaker sections of society to continue their education beyond class VIII. The scheme provides for scholarship of Rs.500/- per month to one lakh students joining class IX every year. The scholarship is available upto class XII. Details of No. of scholarships for each State/UT is given in the Annexure. The scheme provides reservation to different categories of students as per the State/UT norms. About 4 lakh students are likely to be benefited under the scheme during the 11th Plan period. State Governments/UT Administrations have been directed to give wide publicity to the scheme.