

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:522
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

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

- (a) the criteria/norms followed for the implementation of the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for the benefit of Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates;
- (b) the categories of candidates other than SC, if any, covered under the said scheme;
- (c) the number of scholarships projected and awarded during the last three years under the said scheme; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the said scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in answer to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.522 for answer on 03.05.2010 regarding Overseas Scholarship Scheme

(a) to (d): The National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes etc. candidates provides financial assistance to the selected candidates for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and Ph.D. programmes abroad in specified fields of Engineering, Technology and Science. The major criteria/norms for eligibility under the scheme are:

- (i) the candidate should be below 35 years of age;
- (ii) the total income of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians should not exceed Rs.25,000/- per month;
- (iii) the candidate should have first class or 60% or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelors'/Masters' degree.

2. 30 awards are available each year under the scheme, as per category-wise distribution given below:-

(i) Scheduled Castes	- 27
(ii) Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes	- 2
(iii) Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans	- 1
Total	- 30

One third of the awards are reserved for women candidates.

3. Total number of candidates selected for the award of scholarship under the scheme during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is 57. As regards scholarship for 2009-10, last date for submission of application has been extended upto 14.05.2010.

4. Following steps are taken to publicise the scheme:-

- (i) Details of the scheme are available on the website of the Ministry.
- (ii) advertisements inviting applications are published in Employment News and other leading national and regional dailies;

(iii) Premier technological institutions of the Country are also requested to publicize the Scheme among their eligible students; and

(iv) the scheme is also publicized through the weekly radio programme of the Ministry named "Sanwanti Jayein Jeevan Ki Raahein".