

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to wind up the corpus of Rs.1000 crore under the 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship' Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of alternative arrangements made by the Government to fund the scholarship and related expenditure under the said scheme; and
- (d) the number of students so far benefited under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) Yes,Sir.
- (b) The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship scheme initially envisaged creation of a corpus of Rs.3000 crore over a 4 year period. The yield from the corpus was to be utilised for payment of scholarships every year in the secondary and higher secondary stage. After the first tranche of corpus was created, there was a drastic fall in interest rate. Since the yield from the corpus at the new interest rate would not have been adequate for the purpose of the scheme, it was decided in May, 2010 to wind up the existing corpus of Rs. 1000 crore and to make annual budget provision to meet each year's requirement.
- (c) A budget provision of Rs. 90.50 crore has been made for the year 2010-11 to fund the scholarships and related expenditure.
- (d) For the year 2008-09, 54564 students of class IX of 33 States/UTs were selected. For the year 2009-10, 24521 students of 27 States/UTs were selected.