

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:879
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
MERIT-CUM MEANS SCHEME
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched a merit-cum-means scheme for students belonging to Minority communities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the targets set and achievement made there against in respect of each State since the launch of the scheme, State-wise; and
- (d) the total amount earmarked and spent under the scheme since the launch of the scheme, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c): The merit-cum-means scholarship scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2007. It is being implemented through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Under this scheme scholarships are available for pursuing professional and technical courses in the country, at graduate and post-graduate levels, in institutions recognized by the appropriate authority. Every year 20,000 fresh scholarships are proposed to be awarded in addition to the renewals. 30% of these scholarships are earmarked for girl students.

To be eligible, a student should have secured admission in any technical or professional institution, recognized by an appropriate authority. In case of students admitted without a competitive examination, students should have secured not less than 50% marks. The annual income of the family from all sources should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakhs. Seventy institutes for professional and technical courses have been listed in the scheme. Eligible students from the minority communities admitted to these institutions are reimbursed full course fee. Course fee of Rs.20,000/- per annum is reimbursed to students studying in other institutions.

All other details in respect of this scheme, including State-wise, year-wise targets and achievements since inception of the scheme, are available in the website of this Ministry i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

(d): Under the Merit-cum- means based scholarship scheme, there is no earmarking of funds State-wise. The year-wise fund allocation and expenditure under the scheme since its inception is given below:-

Year	Budgeted Amount (in Rupees)	Expenditure (in Rupees)
2007-08	54.00 crore	40.80 crore
2008-09	65.00 crore	64.79 crore
2009-10	100.00 crore	97.51 crore
2010-11	135.00 crore	2.37crore (till 30.6.2010)