

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2393
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR DIASPORA CHILDREN
Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has started the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC);
- (b) if so, the details of the scholarships and the criteria for eligibility for students to receive scholarship;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to improve the scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) Yes, Madam. Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) was introduced in the academic year 2006-2007 with the objective of making higher education in India accessible to the children of overseas Indians and promote India as a centre for higher studies.

(b) The scheme is open to NRIs / PIOs from the countries having substantial Indian Diaspora population. Under the scheme, scholarships are provided to 100 selected students, 50 (fifty) each from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). In case of non-availability of suitable PIO candidates, the unfilled slots are offered to NRI candidates and vice-versa. Under the scheme, a scholarship up to US\$ 5,000 per annum / per student is awarded for undergraduate courses in Engineering, Technology, Humanities, Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry etc. Assistance provided under the scheme comprises of financial assistance, primarily towards tuition fee, admission fee and post admission services.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR ADMISSION

(i) Date of Birth:

The SPDC is open for applicants in the age group of 17 to 21 years as on 1st October of the year of admission.

(ii) Residence:

Applicants must be (i) a Person of Indian Origin (PIO) and a citizen of a country listed in the Appendix, or (ii) an Indian National studying abroad. The Indian Nationals must have had at least 3 (three) years of education in any one of 40 foreign countries during the last 6 (six) years and must have passed the qualifying examination inclusive of 11th and 12th standard or equivalent (not beyond), from one of these 40 foreign countries.

(iii) Academic Qualifications:

Applicants must possess the following academic qualifications: Qualifying Examination: The candidate must have passed the Senior Secondary (10+2) or equivalent examination from a system of education recognized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), with requisite subjects. Minimum Marks in qualifying Examination: The candidate must have secured a minimum of 60% aggregate marks or equivalent grades in aggregate of all the subjects in the qualifying examination.

Subjects of Study in Qualifying Examination: The candidate must have studied the prescribed essential subjects at the qualifying examination level to pursue a particular course of study.

iv) MEANS CRITERIA

In case of NRI candidates alone, the total monthly income of the family of the candidate should not exceed an amount equivalent to US Dollars two thousand two hundred fifty (US\$ 2250). The candidate would have to provide a certificate to this effect in the prescribed format which should be duly countersigned by the Parent/Guardian, as applicable. There is no income limit for the PIO candidates.

(c) & (d) Making improvement in the scheme is a continuous process. During the Financial Year 2011-12, the scheme was improved

by enhancing the grant of scholarship from US \$ 3600 to US \$ 5000 as the upper limit for the grant of scholarship.