

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1852

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL MEANS CUM MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the implementation of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship programme by several States was far from satisfactory;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the progress of implementation of the said programme recently; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development launched a Centrally sponsored National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme in 2008-09 with the objective of awarding scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their studies at secondary stage. There is quota of scholarships for different States/UTs. The details of the scholarships awarded in each State/UT since 2008-09 is given at Annexure.

(c) to (d) Yes, Sir. The progress of the scheme was reviewed in State Education Secretaries Conference held in New Delhi on 28th July, 2012. The representatives of the State Governments /UT Administrations present in the meeting were requested to take adequate steps like giving wide publicity to the schemes to ensure that maximum number of eligible students appear in the selection test. Subsequently, the Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy has also written to the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take effective steps in this regard.