

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1981
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched National Merit Scholarship Scheme in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any evaluation of the work performance under the said scheme;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) The National Merit Scholarship Scheme which was being operated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been closed w.e.f. 31st March, 2007. In its place, two new schemes have been initiated, namely, 'National Means-cum- Merit Scholarship Scheme' for students from Class IX to Class XII and 'Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College & Students' for students pursuing higher studies, professional courses, engineering and medical studies, after passing Class XII or equivalent exam.

(b) In the 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' for students in Classes IX to XII and in the 'Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students', the scholarship is disbursed electronically into the bank accounts of the students. In the 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme', scholarships @ Rs. 500/- per month are awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections studying in classes IX to XII. The eligible students are selected through an examination conducted alongwith the 'National Talent Search-Stage 1 Examination'. One lakh scholarships are available each year under this scheme

In the 'Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students' scholarship is paid @ Rs. 1,000/- per month at the graduation level for first three years and Rs.2,000/- per month thereafter. Students who are above the 80th percentile of the successful candidates in the relevant stream for a particular Board of examination, in Class XII of 10+2 pattern or equivalent exam and belonging to 'non-creamy layer' are eligible to be considered for the scholarship. Eighty-two thousand fresh scholarships, 41000 for boys and 41000 for girls are available every year under this scheme.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.