

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3654
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SC CANDIDATES
Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes candidates for pursuing Master level courses and Ph.D. abroad in specified fields of study;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the eligibility criteria for selection of such candidates;
- (c) the total number of Scheduled Caste candidates who have availed the National Overseas Scholarship during each of the last three years, State and field-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to include some more specified fields of study under the scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a):Yes, Sir.

(b): Thirty fresh scholarships are available annually under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes etc. candidates. The criteria adopted for implementation of the Scheme is as under:-

- (i) the candidate should be below 35 years of age;
- (ii) the total income of the employed candidate or his / her parents/guardians' should not exceed Rs.25,000/-p.m.
- (iii) the candidate should have first class or 60% or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelors'/Masters' degree.

(c): 30 Scheduled Caste students in the year 2009-10 and 29 Scheduled Caste students and one student belonging to Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans category in the year 2010-11 have been selected for the National Overseas Scholarship. The scholarships are not provided State-wise. The number of awardees, selected, field-wise for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 each are given in the Annexure.

. The selection of students for award of Scholarship for the year 2011-12 is under process.

(d) & (e) : The Scheme was partially revised in the year 2010-11. The scholarships are now provided in the following specified fields of study:-a)Engineering; b)Management; c)Pure Sciences; d) Agricultural Science and e)Medicine.

Presently there is no proposal to include some more specified fields of study under the scheme.