

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3844

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013

FREE EDUCATION UPTO PH.D LEVEL

Choudhary Shri Harish; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Singh Shri Ilyaraj ; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide free education at graduation level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide free education for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) students upto Ph.D level in the country and if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal;
- (d) whether the Government has worked out any financial implications of free education upto Ph.D and if so, the facts in this regard;
- (e) whether his Ministry has demanded an annual hike of Rs.65 lakh per district under a key provision of the flagship Serva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), catering to remedial teaching for SCs /STs; and
- (f) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

- (a) No, Madam.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Madam. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it is implementing the Post Doctoral Fellowships for pursuing advance studies & Post Doctoral research in Science, Engineering & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences and Post Graduate Fellowships for Professional Courses to undertake Post Graduate level studies in professional subjects like Engineering & Technology, Management, Pharmacy etc. in Indian Universities/Colleges/Institutions. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC/ST Candidates are also implemented by the UGC which are funded by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) also provide scholarships, viz. free messing (basic menu) and pocket allowance of Rs. 250/- per month provided their parental income is below Rs.4.5 lakhs per annum, the SC/ST Institute Scholarship holders are also exempted payment of hostel seat rent of Rs.500/- per semester and all SC/ST students admitted to B.Tech, Dual Degree, M.Tech, M.Sc, M.S. and Ph.D. programmes are exempted from the payment of tuition fees irrespective of their parental income. In addition, the Scholarship Schemes for SC/ST students like the Top Class Education Scholarship Scheme, the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme and the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to pursue higher studies are also implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (d) No, Madam.
- (e) No, Madam.
- (f) Does not arise.