

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4192

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013

NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR STS

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Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government implements National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes (STs);
- (b) if so, the objectives, salient features and scope thereof;
- (c) the funding pattern of the scheme along with the allocation made under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the performance of the scheme along with the number of students benefited therefrom during the said period;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to revise the scheme and to include bachelor courses, specialized technological and advance sciences therein and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether only two ST students from Andhra Pradesh have been given scholarship under the scheme during the last few years and if so, the reasons therefor indicating the criteria for selection of students under the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SMT. RANEE NARAH)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The objective of the Scheme is to provide scholarships to 15 ST students including 2 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTG) students per annum by way of financial assistance to meritorious students for pursuing higher studies in foreign accredited university in certain subjects at Master Level, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral research programmes, in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science. The scheme can be availed of by ST students below the age of 35 years with 1st class with 60% or equivalent grade for pursuing study for the Master' s/Ph. D/Post Doctoral degrees respectively and whose monthly income from all sources or his/her parents'/guardians' income does not exceed Rs. 25,000/- per month.

(c): Under the Scheme, the funds are released to the candidates through the Ministry of External Affairs. The allocation of funds made under the Scheme during each last three years and the current years (2009-10 to 2012-13) are as under:-

(Rs. In lakh)

Year	Allocation of funds
2009-10	50.00
2010-11	100.00
2011-12	100.00
2012-13	100.00

(d): During the last three years and current (2009-10 to 2012-13), a total of 13 ST students were sent abroad for higher studies and seven ST candidates have been selected for the selection year 2011-12 for award of Scholarship.

(e): No Madam, the Ministry has no proposal to revise the Scheme for including bachelor courses, specialized technological and advance sciences therein.

(f): During the last few years, three ST students from Andhra Pradesh have gone abroad for pursuing higher studies. As per provision of the Scheme, applications from eligible ST candidates are invited through advertisements published in leading new papers and website of this Ministry. Applications received within stipulated period are scrutinized by the Screening Committee. The eligible ST candidates are then called for personal interview before the Selection Committee for final selection and awarding of National Overseas Scholarship.