

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:177
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EWS STUDENTS
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the students belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) for studying abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of policies/schemes adopted by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the number of students likely to get benefitted under the said policies/ schemes; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated for the said purpose by the Government during the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes for providing financial assistance to students belonging to Weaker Sections to pursue higher studies abroad :-

1. Padho Pardesh :- This scheme is implemented by Ministry of Minority Affairs. Padho Pardesh is a scheme of Interest Subsidy on educational loan on overseas studies for the meritorious and economically weaker students belonging to Minority Communities. For availing the benefit of the scheme, the total income from all sources of the employed candidates or his/her parents/guardians in case of unemployed candidate shall not exceed Rs. 6.00 Lac per annum. Under the Scheme, 100% interest subsidy is provided on educational loan availed by the students, enrolled for course at Masters, M. Phil and Ph.D. levels, for overseas studies under the existing educational loan scheme of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Physical target and financial allocation under the scheme for the year 2014-15 is 100 beneficiaries and Rs. 4 Crore respectively.
2. National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe Students : This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to meritorious Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses, Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Research Programmes in foreign universities in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science whose parental income does not exceed Rs.6. lac per annum. The selected candidates are given cost of tuition and other educational fee charged by foreign universities, maintenance and other grants along with travel expenses. Physical target and financial allocation under the scheme for the year 2014-15 is 20 (17 ST and 3 Primitive Tribal Group) beneficiaries and Rs. 1.0 Crore respectively.
3. National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste etc.: This scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment . Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for pursuing Master level course and Ph.D. abroad. The family income ceiling of the candidates/parents is Rs.6.00 lac per annum. The number of awards available is 60 per annum. An amount of Rs.6.00 crore has been provided under the scheme.