

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:203

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015

Scholarship to Differently Abled Students

Simha Shri Prathap

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

- a) the number of differently abled students in the country along with the number of such students covered under the various scholarship schemes being run by the Government, State-wise;
- b) whether the Government is satisfied with the coverage of the differently abled students under the said schemes;
- c) if not, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide scholarships to all the differently abled students in the country; and
- d) the other steps being taken for the overall growth, development and assistance for the differently abled citizens of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT)

a) to d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to
LOK SABHA Starred Question No. 203 for 04.08.2015 raised by
Shri Prathap Simha regarding Scholarship to Differently Abled Students

(a) As per the information available from Ministry of Human Resource Development, on the basis of Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) for 2013-14, 25,03,907 Children with Special Needs (CWSN) are enrolled in schools. Besides, 2,06,713 severe/profound CWSN are covered under Home Based Education (HBE). State-wise number of CWSN is given in Annexure I.

Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 405 special schools are being run by NGOs in which 52,624 students with disabilities were enrolled in the year 2014-15. The following scholarship schemes are being implemented for the Students with Disabilities-

- 1) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Students with Disabilities (RGNFD) –for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D courses. There is a provision of 200 Fellowships every year. Selection is done University Grants Commission.
- 2) Scholarship from Trust Fund (implemented through National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) – for pursuing for Graduate/Post Graduate level technical/ professional courses. There is a provision of 2500 scholarships every year.
- 3) Scholarship Scheme from National Fund (implemented through NHFDC) – for post matric courses up to Ph.D including technical/professional courses. In case of Cerebral Palsy/Mentally Retarded/Multiple Disabilities/ severe Hearing Impaired students this scholarship can be considered from class IX onwards. There is a provision of 500 scholarships every year.
- 4) Gyan Prabha Scholarship scheme (being implemented by National Trust) for persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities for courses of Post-school professional courses or vocational training, leading to skill development and employment. There is a provision of 1000 scholarships every year.
- 5) Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities - For Class IX and X at pre-matric level and for class XI onwards up to bachelors degree at post-matric level. There is a provision of 46,000 pre-matric and 16,650 post-matric scholarships every year.
- 6) Scholarship for Top Class Education for post graduate courses in certain notified institutions, there is a provision of 160 scholarships every year.
- 7) National Overseas Scholarship for pursuing Master's and Doctorate Degree level courses at abroad. There is a provision of 20 scholarships and two passage grants every year.

The number of students covered under the above scholarship schemes during the year 2014-15 are given in Annexure-II.

b) & c): The schemes of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, Scholarship from Trust Fund, and Scholarship from National Fund have been running for the past few years and hence their coverage is good.

However, in case of recently launched Scholarship Schemes like Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, National Overseas Scholarship (all three launched in 2014-15) and Top Class Education Scholarship (launched in 2015-16) the following steps have been taken to create mass awareness and to popularise the schemes among the targeted beneficiaries –

• Advertisements through Newspapers and website have been issued,

• The schemes of Pre-matric, Post-matric and Top Class have been on-boarded and being implemented on-line on the "National e-Scholarship Portal" www.scholarships.gov.in.

• Regional workshops have been conducted covering all States/Union Territories to sensitise and to apprise the State

Governments of the process of grant of scholarship and its successful implementation.

â€¢ Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Human Resource Development and all the State Governments have been requested to disseminate information about the schemes through the institutions/organizations under their control for mass awareness and publicity.

â€¢ The National Institutes, and NGOs associated with this Department have been requested to give wide publicity to these schemes through their institutions and students with disabilities.

â€¢ A national level conference of all State/UT Secretaries concerned with disability was held on 2nd and 3rd July, 2015 and they were requested to make the scholarship schemes popular and successful for the benefit of the students with disabilities.

d) The primary responsibility for programs for the welfare of persons with disabilities, including persons with physical and mental disabilities, lies with the State Government as per entry No.9 in the "State List". However, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities supplements the efforts of the States in the welfare of Persons with Disabilities. A list of schemes being run by this Department for differently abled citizen of the country is given at Annexure-III.
