

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3681
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2019**

SPARSH YOJANA

**3681. SHRI RAJA AMRESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing Deen Dayal Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as a Hobby (SPARSH) yojana for students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the scholarship thereunder will be awarded on the basis of philately quiz and philately project and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the status of implementation of the said scheme since its inception along with the funds sanctioned and spent by the Government so far, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for promotion of philately in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) The Department of Posts launched Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana on 3rd Nov, 2017. The main objective of the scheme is promotion of philately among children at a young age. Each of the 23 Postal Circles awards maximum 40 scholarships to 10 students each from classes VI, VII, VIII & IX. As such, 920 scholarships are awarded to students across India under the Yojana. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 6000/- per annum.
- (c) Yes Sir. A two-level selection process is adopted. At the 1st level, a written test is conducted which is a screening test. Students selected at the first level have to submit a Philately Project for selection at the 2nd level. For this purpose, Circles issue communication to the selected candidates informing them of the list of topics and broad guidelines for the project. The final selection is done on the basis of the marks secured in Philately Project. The evaluation of the project is done by a committee constituted at Circle level and

40 students (10 each from classes VI, VII, VIII & IX) are selected for the award of the scholarships by each Circle.

(d) The SPARSH Yojana has been successfully implemented for the year 2017-18 & 2018-19 and is in progress for the year 2019-20. The number of students selected in the first two editions is enclosed at **Annexure I**. Funds to the tune of Rs. 55.20 lakh are to be utilised by the Postal Circles for awarding the scholarships in a year. Funds actually utilised by the Postal Circles under Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana for the years 2017-18 & 2018-19 are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

(e) Several initiatives have been taken by the Department of Posts for promotion of Philately. Details are as follows:

i) **Launch of scholarship scheme Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana-** As detailed in parts (a) to (d) above.

ii) **Launch of an annual nationwide letter writing competition “Dhai Akhar”** - A nationwide annual letter writing competition “Dhai Akhar” was launched in 2017-18 to encourage and promote letter writing. 12 prizes are given at the national level and 276 at Circle level. This year Dhai Akhar letter Writing Campaign is launched on the theme “Dear Bapu, you are immortal”. The competition is underway as of now.

iii) **Organization of Philatelic Seminars** – 23 Postal Circles across the country organize philatelic seminars around the year to promote and spread awareness about Philately. These seminars especially focus on participation of school children.

iv) **Organization of Philatelic Exhibitions** – Philatelic Exhibitions are organized by Postal Circles to promote Philately. These exhibitions provide a platform to showcase the stamp collections of philatelists and help to initiate newcomers to philately.

v) **Opening of School Philatelic Clubs** – Special emphasis is given on opening of School Philatelic Clubs to promote philately at the grassroots.

vi) **Crowd-sourcing of Stamp designs** - Stamp Design Competitions are being organised by the Department of Posts on “people- centric themes” from time to time to engage the people and spread awareness about postage stamps.

(ANNEXURE I)

Sl. No.	Postal Circle	State/UTs	2017-18			2018-19		
			Students selected (in no.s)	Funds Sanctioned (in thousand Rs.)	Funds spent (in thousand Rs.)	Students selected (in no.s)	Funds Sanctioned (in thousand Rs.)	Funds spent (in thousand Rs.)
1.	Assam		16	240	96	40	240	240
2.	Andhra Pradesh		40	240	240	40	240	240
3.	Bihar		40	240	240	40	240	240
4.	Chhattisgarh		40	240	240	40	240	240
5.	Delhi	(UT)	40	240	240	40	240	240
6.	Gujarat	Gujarat	40	240	240	40	240	240
7.		Daman and Diu (UT)	0		0	0		
8.		Dadar and Nagar Haveli (UT)	0		0	0		
9.	Haryana		40	240	240	40	240	240
10.	HP		40	240	240	40	240	240
11.	J&K		0 (*)	240	0	40	240	240
12.	Jharkhand		40	240	240	40	240	240
13.	Karnataka		40	240	240	40	240	240
14.	Kerala	Kerala	40	240	240	41 (**)	240	246
15.		Lakshadweep (UT)	0		0	0		
16.	Madhya Pradesh		40	240	240	40	240	240
17.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra	37	240	222	40	240	240
18.		Goa	03		18	0		0
19.	North East	Arunachal Pradesh	01	240	6	0	240	0
20.		Manipur	13		78	26		156
21.		Meghalaya	03		18	04		24
22.		Mizoram	0		0	03		18
23.		Nagaland	07		42	0		0
24.		Tripura	05		30	07		42

Sl No.	Postal Circle	State/UTs	2017-18			2018-19			
			Students selected (in no.s)	Funds Sanctioned (in thousand Rs.)	Funds spent (in thousand Rs.)	Students selected (in no.s)	Funds Sanctioned (in thousand Rs.)	Funds spent (in thousand Rs.)	
25.	Odisha		40	240	240	40	240	240	
26.	Punjab	Punjab State	35	240	210	29	240	174	
27.		Chandigarh (UT)	05		30	11			66
28.	Rajasthan		40	240	240	40	240	240	
29.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	38	240	228	34	240	204	
30.		Pondicherry (UT)	02		12	06			36
31.	Telangana		40	240	240	40	240	240	
32.	Uttar Pradesh		40	240	240	35	240	210	
33.	Uttarakhand		36	240	216	40	240	240	
34.	West Bengal	West Bengal	40	240	240	37	240	222	
35.		Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	0		0	03			18
36.		Sikkim	0		0	0			0
TOTAL			841	5520	5046	916	5520	5496	

(*) The Yojana could not be implemented in J&K in 2017-18 as due to winter season in J&K most of the schools remain closed.

(**) Two students of Class-VIII got the same marks in final selection and both of them were selected. 10 students were selected from Class-VI, VII and IX and 11 students from Class-VIII in Kerala.
