

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME OF TOP CLASS EDUCATION FOR ST STUDENTS

1. Background

The Finance Minister in his budget speech on the Union Budget 2005-06 made the following announcements -

"The key to empowering the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is to provide top class education opportunities to meritorious students. The three on-going scholarship schemes for SC/ST students under the Central Plan - pre-Matric, post-Matric and merit-based - will continue.

To provide an added incentive, I propose a new window: a short list of institutes of excellence will be notified, and any SC/ST student who secures admission in one of those institutes will be awarded a larger scholarship that will meet the requirements for tuition fees, living expenses, books and a computer.

1.2 Accordingly, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had a re-look at the critical gaps in quality education and drafted a more liberal scholarship scheme in consonance with the budget speech, which can take care of the quality education for the ST students. It was considered apt to provide the new window to cover the funding for quality education to ST students up to degree/post degree level without any burden on the pupils or their family.

2. Objective

2.1 The scheme aims at recognizing the need to support meritorious ST students who gain admission in identified quality educational institutions, by providing full financial support to the selected meritorious students which would enable them to complete their courses of higher studies in these selected academic institutions of the country.

3. Salient Features of the scheme:

3.1 Coverage: The scheme will operate in all institutions notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.. MoTA is fully authorized to finalize the list of institutes and review it periodically.

3.2 Grant of scholarships: The ST students who secure admission in these institutions will be awarded scholarships.

3.2.1 The scholarship, once awarded, will continue till the completion of the course, subject to satisfactory performance.

3.2.2 The amount of the scholarship would cover tuition fees; boarding and lodging expenses; book grant and a one-time grant for the purchase of a computer (along with its accessories).

3.3 Eligibility

3.3.1 Those ST students who have secured admission in the notified institutions according to the norms prescribed by the respective institutions will be eligible for the scholarship under the scheme to the extent of the number of scholarships allocated to the institutes concerned. In case the number of students

admitted exceeds the number of awards, then the scholarship will be restricted to the top 5 students in the inter-se merit list. The remaining students from ST category admitted in the institute in different courses shall be eligible for the Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) administered by this Ministry as a Centrally sponsored scheme, provided such students are otherwise eligible for the said scheme.

3.3.2 The total family income of the student to be eligible for this scholarship from all sources should not exceed Rs.2.00 lakh per annum.

3.3.3 The scholarship will become payable immediately after a student has secured admission and has started attending the classes.

3.3.4 The scholarship will be terminated if the student fails to pass the final examination of each year or any terminal examination prescribed. He will, however, remain eligible for the Post-Matric Scholarship.

4. Procedure for selection of Institutes

The reputed premier institutions to be covered under the scheme shall be notified by the Ministry in the first year of operation and thereafter shall be revised every year by a Steering Committee .

The list of the reputed premier institutions to be covered under the Scheme is at **Annexure**.

5. Rates and the number of Scholarships

Under the scheme, the ST students will be awarded a scholarship to meet the requirements for

- (i) full tuition fee and other non-refundable dues in respect of Government/Government-funded institutions. However, there will be a ceiling of Rs.2.00 lakhs per annum per student for private sector institutions and Rs.3.72 lakhs per student for the private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training;
- (ii) living expenses will be provided as per actuals subject to maximum ceiling of Rs. 2200/- per month per student(to be revised after initial period of six months from the date of launching of the scheme).

(iii) books and stationery @ Rs.3000/- per annum per student;

(iv) Cost of a latest computer along with its accessories limited to Rs.45,000/- as one time assistance during the course.

Each institute has been allocated 5 awards. The maximum limit of 5 scholarships per institute can be increased subject to an overall capping of 635 scholarships per year.

6. Funding Pattern

6.1 The Scheme will be funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 100% basis and the funds shall be released directly to the institution concerned.

6.2 The funds may be released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in a single instalment immediately after the admission.

7. General Provisions

7.1 The scholarship will become payable to ST students only upon securing admission in any of the institutions notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs .

7.2 The students, who are awarded the scholarship under the scheme, shall have to pursue the study in the respective institution on whole time basis.

7.3 The institute will select the eligible ST students on the basis of merit and shall forward the merit list of the selected students in the prescribed proforma along with a duly verified copy of the application, proof of admission and fee chargeable etc. to claim the scholarship. The institute will not charge any fee whatsoever from the students.

7.4 After disbursement, the institute will furnish a Utilization Certificate towards the amount received, which will include the signature of the scholarship holders.

7.5 The performance of the ST students covered under the scheme shall be monitored regularly by the Head of the respective institution and the same shall be reported, through a report card, to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the end of each academic year.

7.6 The notified institutions shall submit progress reports of implementation of the Scheme to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs from time to time, as required.

7.7 Any institution violating the provisions of the Scheme and/or instructions issued by the Government of India will be denotified.

7.8 In the event of denotification/deletion of any institution, the scholarship will continue to be available to the ST students

already admitted under the scheme, if otherwise eligible, till completion of the course. However, no fresh seats will be allotted and funds released to such denotified institutes.

7.9 The provisions of the General Financial Rules (GFR), 2005, will apply mutatis mutandis, and the institutions shall be bound by the general principles laid therein.

8. Review and monitoring

8.1 The progress of implementation of the scheme will be reviewed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs through Steering Committee consisting of the following:-

a) Secretary (M/oTA).....	Chairperson
b) Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser (M/o TA)...	Member
c) Joint Secretary, M/o TA.....	Member
d) Joint Secretary, SC Division, M/o SJ&E.....	Member
e) Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Higher Education, M/o HRD.....	Member
f) Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Medical Education M/H&FW.....	Member
g) A representative of the UGC	Member
h) Director, Education Division, M/oTA.....	Convenor

8.2 The Committee may invite an expert as a special invitee, as and when it deems necessary.

8.3 The Committee may recommend to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs about addition or deletion of any institution based on their performance. For the purpose, the Committee may take into

account the recommendations of the concerned bodies conducting entrance examination for admissions into such courses or having the administrative control over such institutes.

8.4 The Committee may periodically review the performance of the select institutes on the basis of the academic results.