

Each State/UT has a quota. No scholarship was given during 2007-08 under the scheme, as the scheme started only in 2008-09. 54564 scholarships were sanctioned to the selected students of Class IX of 33 States/UTs in 2008-09.

In the selection test, a student needs to secure minimum of 40% marks whereas this cut-off is 32% for the SC/ST students. Also, the scholarship is available only for students whose parental income is not more than Rs. 1,50,000/- per annum. Some States did not avail of their quota as:—

- (i) adequate number of students did not secure qualifying marks and/or
- (ii) the total number of candidates appearing in the selection test was not adequate.

All the States/UTs have been requested to ensure adequate publicity for the scheme among prospective students.

**Centralized examination for admission to Graduation/
Post-Graduation courses**

4719. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any scheme of centralized examination for admission to Graduation/Post-Graduation courses; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government does not have any scheme of centralized examination for admission to Graduate/Post-Graduate courses in professional and technical programmes. However, there are some common entrance examinations such as Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE), All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE), etc., for Graduate level and Common Admission Test (CAT), Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), etc., for Post-Graduate level programmes.

Allocation for expenditure on education

4720. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to improve education in the country, Government plans to increase allocation for expenditure on this sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this allocation includes expenditure on elementary, adult and higher education; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this raising of funds will help to improve education in the country?