

- (vi) Several programmes of cutting edge research, such as, Nano Mission, Mega facilities for Basic Research, Open source Drug Discovery, Network Projects and National Biotechnology Development Strategy have been undertaken to attain leadership in these areas.

All these schemes are Central Plan Schemes and no State-wise allocation of funds is made. Ministry of Science and Technology has spent Rs. 11,926.36 crore in the Science and Technology Sector in the first three years of the XI Plan.

- (c) The Government does not take financial assistance from other countries for Science and Technology collaborative activities.

One shot solution for diabetes

2805. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Immunology (NII) has developed a one shot solution for diabetes;
- (b) if so, whether the trials have been completed; and
- (c) by when it will be introduced for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, National Institute of immunology (NII), New Delhi, an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology, has developed a novel form of insulin, Supramolecular Insulin Assembly-II (SIA-II), derived from two sources viz., recombinant human (rH) and bovine. This molecule in diabetic experimental animals produces glucose homeostasis for a period of one week to four months. Studies have not yet been conducted in human beings.

- (c) The safety and efficacy of this novel form of insulin needs to be established in human subjects before commercialization can be considered.

National overseas scholarship scheme

†2806. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the criteria/norms followed for implementation of National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for the benefit of scheduled castes applicants;

(b) the names of other categories of applicants, if any, who have been given this benefit besides scheduled castes under the said scheme;

(c) the target that was set for number of scholarships to be given and the scholarships given during last three years under the said scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the said scheme popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The major criteria/ norms for eligibility under the scheme of "National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste candidates" are as follows:

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- (i) the candidate should be below 35 years of age;
- (ii) the total income of the employed candidate or his/her parents'/guardians' should not exceed Rs.25,000/- per month; and
- (iii) the candidate should have first class or 60% or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelors'/Masters' degree.

(b) 30 awards are available each year under the scheme, as per category-wise distribution given below:-

(i) Scheduled Castes	-	27
(ii) Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes	-	02
(iii) Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans	-	01
TOTAL		- 30

(c) The number of scholarships available and awarded during the last three years under this scheme are given below:-

Sl.No.	Selection Year	No. of scholarships available	No. of scholarships awarded
1	2007-08	30	28
2	2008-09	30	29
3	2009-10	30	Selection process underway.

(d) Following steps are taken to popularize the scheme:-

- (i) a copy of the scheme has been put up on the website of the Ministry;
- (ii) advertisements for inviting applications are published in Employment News and other leading national and regional dailies; and
- (iii) the aforesaid scheme is also broadcasted on radio under weekly radio programme of the Ministry.

Income limit for Post Matric Scholarship

2807. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken decision to link the Post Matric Scholarship to the cost of living index as suggested by the Planning Commission somewhere in 2006-07;

(b) whether the Ministry proposes to enhance the present income limit of Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum for granting Post Matric Scholarship;

(c) the number of State Governments that distribute this scholarship through Post Offices/Bank Accounts/Smart Cards; and

(d) the steps the Ministry plan to improve the performance of the scheme specified in (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Scholarship schemes are revised from time to time, keeping in view various factors including Consumer Price Index (CPI). The upward revision of income criteria/ scholarship rates under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme for students belonging to Scheduled Castes is under consideration.