

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.

(c) and (d) At present, six State Governments/UT administrations have reported to be fully making payment of this scholarship through Post-offices/Bank accounts. The Ministry is pursuing the matter with other States/UT administrations on regular basis to ensure that system of scholarship disbursement through Post offices/ Bank accounts is adopted throughout the country.

Employment for physically handicapped

2808. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Courts had to come to the rescue of physically handicapped persons to get their appointment in Government services;

(b) if so, whether Government took a note of such cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government had issued any guidelines to strictly follow rules relating to employment for physically handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) From time to time directions are issued by the Courts regarding compliance with the provisions for the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 pertaining to employment to persons with disabilities as stipulated in Section 33 of the above Act.

(d) The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) has issued necessary instructions to Ministries/Departments etc. *vide* Office Memoranda No. 36035/3/2004-Estt. (Res.) dated 29.12.2005, 36035/8/2003-Estt. (Res.) dated 26.04.2006, and 36038/2/2008-Estt. (Res.) dated 15.01.12.2010 to follow the guidelines on reservation for persons with disabilities.

National Association for Older Persons

2809. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Eleventh Plan, Government has to set up a National Association for Older Persons;