

institute goes through a process of testing from the view point of easy accessibility prior to uploading on to the website. The testing for the IIMA website was done in the evening of December 20, and early morning of December 21, 2004. Since comprehensive process of testing requires uploading and testing on-line, it is possible that some candidates may have got access to the link by mere coincidence. As the whole operation is to be in the public domain in any case, such coincidences would be inconsequential in terms of the ultimate outcome. Moreover, only the individuals who furnish the respective Test Registration Number and Date of Birth can have access to their scorecard.

The results are actually declared through the printed scorecard sent by registered post to every candidate who took the test and the printed scorecard is the only valid document showing the result. In the CAT 2004 Bulletin issued in July 2004, it was clearly indicated that all eligible test takers would receive their scorecards by the end of December, 2004. However, to facilitate faster accessibility of results from the viewpoint of the candidates, CAT Group also decided to allow candidates to have access to the electronic version of their scorecards. This was done primarily with the objective of providing better service to the test takers. The exercise of prior testing was meant to ensure a smooth and trouble free access to everyone.

As decided by the CAT Group, the results of CAT 2004 were placed on the website of each IIM by midnight of December 21/22, 2004.

Scholarships for SC/ST/OBC students

668. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scholarships/fellowships etc. given to the students at various levels of education on the basis of merit/examination;

(b) whether there are schemes for scholarships/fellowships for the talented SC/ST/OBC students;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative whether Government would consider providing this facility to such students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development implements the scheme entitled National Merit

Scholarship Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to the 10762 meritorious students of rural areas studying in classes IX & X and also to 17000 meritorious students studying at post-matric to post-graduate level. The rate of scholarship ranges from Rs. 250/- per month for Class IX & X to Rs. 750/- per month for post graduates. The scheme is open to all including SC/ST/OBC. Under the Scheme of Scholarship to Students from Non-Hindi Speaking States for Post-Matric Studies in Hindi, the rate of scholarship ranges from Rs. 300/- to 1000/- per month.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme and Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Scheme for meritorious SC students. Under the NOS scheme, 20 Scholarships (17 for SC) are provided for pursuing higher studies abroad in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science.

Under the Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Scheme, first 3 Scheduled Caste students scoring highest marks in the regular Class X level CBSE examination/Education Board/Council of each State/UT are given scholarships @ Rs. 60000, 50000 and 40000 per annum, respectively. In addition, there are 167 special merit scholarships of Rs. 10,000/- per annum each to be given to Scheduled Caste meritorious students securing next higher marks after third position. These special scholarships are distributed to various States in proportion to the Scheduled Caste population in the State.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs gives 10 scholarships under National Overseas Scholarships to ST students for studying abroad for pursuing Master Level Courses, Ph.D. and Postdoctoral research programmes in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science. This scheme includes actual fees charged by the institution and other allowances like maintenance allowances, contingency allowances, Air fair etc.

(d) Does not arise.

UGC's expenditure on litigation

669. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has spent huge amount on litigation pertaining to various disputes with the Research Scientist Association;