

(b) the details of manners in which it is going to be beneficial to the student community specially aspirants from rural areas; and

(c) whether Government has held discussions with various stakeholders in this regard, before mooted such a proposal and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) In pursuance of Budget Announcement 2017-18, the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 10.11.2017 approved creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). NTA will conduct, *inter-alia*, JEE (MAIN) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-UG twice a year in order to give adequate opportunity to candidates to bring out their best. All the entrance examinations will be computer based, for which a network of test practice centres, especially for the aspirants from rural areas will be established so that they have ample opportunity to acquaint themselves with the computer based tests. The Schools and engineering colleges with computer labs will be identified for this purpose, which can be used by any aspirant free of charge. Extensive consultations were done with the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India as well as other stakeholders both from Central and State Government in a workshop held on 1-9-2017. Final decision and time table will be announced soon.

B. R. Ambedkar scholarship fund

1024. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many colleges and students are agitating for not being provided B.R. Ambedkar scholarships fund;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto indicating the reasons for the delayed payment;

(c) the details of scholarships provided to students in colleges and schools in various parts of country during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for providing timely payment of scholarships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) B.R. Ambedkar scholarship is being administered by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Under B.R. Ambedkar Scholarship, the following schemes are being implemented:

- (i) Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Class (EBC) students and
- (ii) Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNT (De-notified Tribes) students.

No incident of agitation by the college students have come to the notice of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(c) As it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the funds are being released to the State/UTs and hence, details of scholarship provided to colleges/schools are not maintained. However, State/UT-wise details of funds released and number of beneficiaries during the last three years are given in the Statement-I and II respectively (*See below*).

(d) State/UTs have been advised to ensure timely disbursement of scholarship to the beneficiaries. Further, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is regularly following up with the State Governments for submission of requisite documents, so that Central Assistance could be released on time.

Statement-I

State-wise details of funds released and number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for Economically Backward Class (EBC) Students from 2015-16 to 2017-18

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
		Funds Released (₹ In lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds Released (₹ In lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds Released (₹ In lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	355.00	267889	364.87	181287	154.05	\$
2.	Bihar	250.00	\$	0.00	0	0.00	0
3.	Gujarat	0.00	0	0.00	0	200.00	4819

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Himachal Pradesh	250.00	3577	50.74	290	300.00	8829
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	92.92	\$	0.00	0
6.	Kerala	0.00	0	248.04	\$	0.00	0
7.	Odisha	0.00	0	2.05	\$	25.95	\$
8.	Rajasthan	0.00	0	509.07	\$	0.00	0
9.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0	74.31	\$	0.00	0
10.	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	0	200.00	\$
11.	Sikkim	145.00	588	91.50	272	200.00	938
12.	Tripura	0.00	0	58.50	\$	0.00	0
13.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	20.00	158	20.00	\$
TOTAL		1000.00	272054	1512.00	182007	1100.00	14586

\$ Not received from the States/UTs

Statement-II

Details of funds released and number of beneficiaries under the Scheme of Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for De-notified Tribes (DNTs) Students from 2015-16 to 2017-18

No. Beneficiaries in lakh

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
		Funds Released (₹ In lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds Released (₹ In lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds Released (₹ In lakh)	No. of Beneficiaries
1.	Gujarat	0.00	0	0.00	0	539.25	\$
2.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	178.35	\$	0.00	0
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	47.55	\$	0.00	0
4.	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Maharashtra	378.11	3.76	224.10	\$	0.00	0
6.	Rajasthan	71.89	\$	0.00	0	0.00	0
TOTAL		450.00	3.76	450.00	0	539.25	0

\$ Not received from the States/UTs