

SPECIAL MENTIONS**Demand to review and simplify the process of National Overseas Scholarship for students**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. It's good. No more questions. Now, Special Mentions. I will request to please lay it instead of reading. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar) : Sir, I will read. Please forgive me. It is a very important issue.

Sir, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs of Government of India gives National Overseas Scholarship to SC/ST students for studying abroad. In view of the emerging context, number of scholarships should be increased, and the fellowship should be extended to the OBC students too. As of now only those applicants having annual parental income below 06 lakh are allowed to apply. This criterion should be increased up to 10 lakh per annum. The annual maintenance allowance (£9900 for UK and \$15400 for USA) given under this scholarship is inadequate for living in mega cities abroad and is not as per equal to other scholarships which is given by the other institutions of the Government such as UGC etc. Therefore, revision in the allowance should be done immediately. The fellowship holders living in the mega cities of the world should be given additional maintenance allowance. The selected candidates for the scholarship have to go through rigorous procedure of police verification which causes inordinate delay in joining the foreign universities. This process needs to be simplified or done away with since such verification is already done during issuing passport. The Ministry asks selected students for the scholarship to sign a bond which requires two solvency certificates. This provision of solvency certificates must be scrapped completely since it is against the spirit of the fellowship. The Ministry asks scholarship holders to sign a bond that they would reside in India for 05 years after finishing his/her study abroad.

Demand to tax exemptions for expediting land acquisition around Shri Jagannath Temple

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Shri Jagannath Temple, Puri is an important religious and cultural institution for millions of devotees in the country. Yet, recent terror related security threats concerning the temple have emerged and require urgent