

*Q.No.1252 Question was cancelled.*

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -1253  
ANSWERED ON - 27/07/2022**

**WITHDRAWAL OF NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP**

**1253. PROF MANOJ KUMAR JHA**

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

- (a) whether Government had carried out any public consultation before withdrawing the National Overseas Scholarship to pursue courses related to Indian culture, heritage, history or society in foreign universities for marginalized students;
- (b) if not, what was the rationale behind it;
- (c) whether Government has considered its adverse impact on the career prospects of marginalized students; and
- (d) what alternative Government is planning for giving it to the students?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)**

(a) to (d) The guidelines of all the schemes are reviewed once in 5 years to make the schemes more relevant and outcome-oriented. In doing this, third party evaluation reports, which are prepared after detailed consultation with the stakeholders, are also taken into account.

The changes made in the NOS scheme guidelines were guided by the need for simplifying the procedures and to make the process more transparent. Also, since there is greater demand for study in science and technology fields, in order to better utilise the resources, scholarships were prioritized for those subjects in greater demand. It was felt that the fields of study where India has strength or where the field work is to be done in India can be left out of the list.

Accordingly, topics/courses concerning Indian Culture, Heritage, History & Social studies on India where substantial portion of the field work is in India, are not being considered for award of scholarships from 2022-23 onwards, whereas other subjects under Humanities/Social Sciences which need international exposure such as Law, Economics, Psychology etc. are still available for funding. This change has provided more opportunities for the poor SC students to study in global best universities.

In light of the above, there may not be a need for introducing an alternative scholarship scheme and the same scheme viz. the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme will continue to be implemented by the Government with guidelines as revised recently.

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