

NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (NMMSS)

The Centrally Sponsored National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme was launched in May, 2008 after getting approval from CCEA with the objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue the study at secondary stage. One lakh scholarships of Rs.6000/- per annum (Rs.500/- per month) per student are awarded to selected students every year for study in classes from IX to XII in Government, Government-aided and local body schools under the scheme. There is quota of scholarships for different States/UTs. Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 1,50,000/- per annum are eligible to avail the scholarships. There is reservation as per State Government norms. The selection of students for the scholarships is made through an examination conducted by the State Governments alongwith with National Talent Search Stage-I examination. From this year onwards, a separate selection test for selecting students for award of scholarships under the scheme will be held. Scholarships are disbursed by State Bank of India directly by electronic transfer into the accounts of students on quarterly basis.

2. 55544 scholarships during 2008-09, 78926 scholarships during 2009-10, 81377 scholarships during 2010-11 and 103033 scholarships during 2011-12 have been sanctioned in accordance with the proposals received from the States/UTs.

3. The total number of scholarships sanctioned during XI Plan is 318880 involving an expenditure of Rs. 174.68 crore. The total number of beneficiaries during the Plan period is 1.49 lakh students approximately. During current financial year, more than 80000 scholarships have been sanctioned so far.

4. The scheme is continued in XII Plan to award one lakh scholarships each year at class 9th stage and for subsequent continuation of scholarships.

NATIONAL SCHEME OF INCENTIVE TO GIRLS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION (NSIGSE)

The Centrally sponsored scheme namely “National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE)” was launched in May 2008 with the objective to establish an enabling environment to reduce the drop-outs and to promote the enrolment of girl child belonging mainly to SC/ST communities in secondary schools. According to the scheme, a sum of Rs.3,000/- is deposited in the name of eligible unmarried girls as fixed deposit, who are entitled to withdraw it along with interest thereon on reaching 18 years of age and passing 10th class examination. The scheme covers (i) all girls belonging to SC/ST communities who pass class VIII and (ii) all girls who pass VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (irrespective of whether they belong to SC/ST) and enrol in class IX in Government, Government-aided and local Body schools.

2. 100% funds are provided by the Central Government for the Scheme.
3. Canara bank is the implementing agency for the scheme. It has developed a web based portal recently to implement the scheme. The portal will facilitate on line submission of data of the beneficiaries and on line disbursement of the amount on maturity into their accounts directly after certification by the State Nodal Officer on line that the beneficiary is 18 years old and passed class X examination.
4. 1259444 girls from 27 states have benefitted since launch of the scheme in 2008-09 till 2011-12 (during 4 years of XI Plan period) involving an expenditure of Rs. 377.83 crore approximately. For 2012-13, BE is Rs. 100 crore. An amount of Rs. 87.26 crore have been sanctioned so far during current financial year covering 290865 beneficiary girls from thirteen States.
