

Department of Higher Education

GUIDELINES FOR THE CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

BACKGROUND:

National Merit Scholarship Scheme was introduced by Department of Education in 1961-62. It was available to brilliant but poor students from class XI to Post-Graduation level. In addition, a Scheme of Scholarship at the Secondary stage for talented children from rural areas was also introduced by Department of Education in 1971-72. It was available to talented but poor students from rural areas from class VI to class XII. These two Schemes were merged and a single Scheme, namely, the 'National Merit Scholarship Scheme' was established by Department of Education for implementation from 2005-06. This was available to meritorious students from class IX to Post-Graduation level. However, since funds were not provided by the Planning Commission for the year 2007-08, the Scheme has been discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.2007. School Education has come under a new Department, namely, Department of School Education & Literacy w.e.f. the year 2007-08. The Department of School Education and Literacy has introduced a new Scheme: 'National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme'. This Scheme will cover students from class IX to XII. The Department of Higher Education has introduced a new scheme for meritorious students from low income families going to colleges / universities for implementation during the XI Five Year Plan period with an approved outlay of Rs. 1000 crore. This is a Central sector scheme titled "Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students".

2. OBJECTIVE: -

To provide financial assistance to meritorious students from low income families to meet a part of their day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies.

3. SCOPE: -

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the results of senior secondary examination. 82000 fresh scholarships per annum [41000 for boys and 41000 for girls] will be awarded for graduate / postgraduate studies in colleges and universities and for professional courses, such as Medical, Engineering etc.

4. ALLOCATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS: -

The total number of scholarships will be divided amongst the State Boards based on the State's population in the age group of 18-25 years, after segregating share of CBSE and ICSE on the basis of number of students passing out from various Boards in the country. **50 % of the scholarships would be earmarked for girls.** The number of scholarships allotted to a State Board would be distributed amongst pass outs of the Science, Commerce and Humanities streams of the State Board in the ratio of 3:2:1.

5. ELIGIBILITY

Students who are above 80th percentile of successful candidates in the relevant stream for a particular Board of Examination, in class XII of 10+2 pattern or equivalent and not belonging to the creamy layer as defined by the Deptt. of Personnel and Training in their

Notification No. 36012/22/93-Estt. (SCT), dated 8.11.93 (Annexure IV), and as modified vide their OM No. 36033/3/2004-Estt. (Res), dated 9th March, 2004 (Annexure V), and as may be further modified from time to time, pursuing regular courses (not correspondence or distance mode) from recognised educational institutions and not availing of any other scholarship scheme, would be eligible for consideration under this Scheme. This is applicable to all categories of students both 'general' and 'reserved'.

5.1 Reservation

Students belonging to reserved categories / weaker sections/minorities are eligible on the basis of merit, subject to Central Reservation Policy and internal earmarking. The scholarship would be available to students belonging to 'non-creamy layer'. As per the latest guidelines on the subject, the income-ceiling for 'non-creamy layer' is **Rs.4.5 Lakh (Rs. 6 Lakh from academic year 2013-14)*** per annum. At present, reservations for the various categories are as follows : SC 15 % ST 71/2 % OBC 27 % and horizontally 3 % for Physically Handicapped in all the categories.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The examining bodies will draw up a merit list of scholars likely to be eligible for scholarship within five weeks after the results of the examinations announced by the Boards/Universities/Authority for all students. The income of the students' parents will be taken into account before preparing the list.

The Boards/Universities/Authority in the State/Union Territory will write to the eligible students from the top of the merit list up to twice the number of scholarships available (to provide for possible refusal and ineligible cases) through a registered letter to confirm within 15 days whether he/she is prepared to accept the scholarship.

The candidates from whom replies are not received within 30 days of the State Board / CBSE / ICSE seeking their willingness will not be considered for scholarship and the award will be given to the next eligible candidates in the merit list.

The Boards/Universities in the State/Union Territory will send to each candidate shortlisted for consideration for award of scholarships the following :

- (a) Entitlement Card
- (b) Income Affidavit form
- (c) A Form for 'Statement of Particulars'.

The shortlisted scholars shall present the Entitlement Card, Income Affidavit form and Statement of Particulars, duly filled-in to the Head of the Institution joined by him/her. The Head of the Institution will complete the Entitlement Card and send it to the concerned State Board, CBSE, ICSE, as the case may be.

On receipt of the 'joining report' along with the completed 'Statement of Particulars' and 'Income Affidavit, the concerned Board will then compile the list of scholarship awardees of that Board on the basis of merit, eligibility criteria and reservation guidelines of the Central Govt. and send the same to the National Scholarship Division of MHRD, Department of Higher Education which will arrange to pay the scholarship to the scholar through a designated bank. The Name, Address for communication and details of bank account of the student in which the scholarship is to be paid, is to be furnished by the Board along with the list.

If the concerned Board does not receive the joining report from the candidate duly signed by the Head of Institution, within 30 days from the date of closure of admission in the Institution, the case for award of scholarship to him/her will not be considered. The scholarship will then be offered to the next eligible candidate in the merit list.

7. RATE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The rate of scholarship would be Rs.1000/- p.m. at Graduation level for first three years of College and University courses and Rs.2000/- per month at Post- Graduation level. Students pursuing professional courses would get Rs.2000/- per month in the 4th and 5th year. The scholarship would be paid for 10 months in an academic year.

8. PARENTAL INCOME CEILING

Scholarships will be paid only to those students who belong to non-creamy layer as defined by the Department of Personnel & Training in their Notification No. 36012 / 22 / 93 – Estt. [SCT], dtd. 8.11.1993 and as modified vide their O.M. No. 36033 / 3 / 2004 / Estt. [Res] and as may be further modified from time to time and not availing of any other scholarship scheme. At present, the income-ceiling is **Rs.4.5 Lakh (Rs. 6 Lakh from academic year 2013-14)*** per annum. A fresh income certificate each year will not be called for, provided the scholar fulfils all other terms and conditions stipulated for the renewal. Scholarship will be paid only to those students whose parent's/guardian's income from all sources **does not exceed Rs.4.5 Lakh (Rs. 6 Lakh from academic year 2013-14)* per annum**, for all categories under the scheme.

9. DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND ITS RENEWAL

A scholarship under the scheme is renewable from year to year upto Post Graduate level in the same stream. For all professional courses, scholarship will be renewed till the graduation level of that course. For all the courses the scholarship would be renewed up to a maximum of five years. The renewal will depend on promotion to the next class provided the scholar secures 60% or more marks or equivalent Grade Point Average in aggregate for the two preceding semesters or of the annual examination which determines his promotion to the next class. It will also be subject to discipline and maintenance of attendance of at least 75% by the scholar. Complaints against the scholars regarding indiscipline including any complaints of having indulged in ragging would lead to forfeiture of scholarship.

If a scholar is unable to appear in the annual examination owing to illness and or on account of any unforeseen event, the award may be renewed for the next academic year on submission of medical certificate and other proof to satisfy the Head of the Institution who will certify that the student would have passed with 60% or equivalent Grade Point Average, had he appeared in the examination.

A scholar would be allowed to continue/renew his scholarship if he changes the course of study to a stream not offered by his school Board in Class XII (e.g. Law, Fashion Technology, etc.). Students pursuing courses in which the duration is 5 years, would get scholarship of Rs.1000/- per month for the first three years and Rs.2000/- per month for the subsequent two years. Students changing their college/institute of study would be allowed to continue/renew the scholarship provided the course of study and the institution is recognized. A student will be eligible for the scholarship for a total duration **not exceeding 5 years** regardless of the course and stream of study. Good conduct and regularity in attendance as mentioned above are also required for continuance of the

scholarship. The decision of the MHRD will be final and binding in all such matters. Scholarship once cancelled will not be revived under any circumstances.

10. PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship will be paid to the selected students directly by the Central Government into a Bank Account opened by them.

The payment of scholarship will start from the month the admission is obtained.

The scholarship will be paid for a period maximum of up to 10 months in an academic year.

(* Revised vide letter No.1-19/2013-NS-I dated 06-06-2013)
