

**F. No. 1-10/2010-SS
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy**

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 25th July, 2017

To

Education Secretaries of all States/ UTs (as per list attached)
(In-charge of Secondary Education)

Subject: Conduct of examination for selection of students for award of scholarships under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) –regarding.

Sir/Madam,

The centrally sponsored “National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme” was launched in May 2008.

2. The examination for selection of students for award of NMMS scholarships under the scheme is being conducted by the State/UT Governments.

3. As it is a time-bound process, you are requested to take necessary action immediately for conducting the selection test/examination in November, 2018 for selection of students for the award of NMMS scholarships for academic year 2019-20 as per terms and conditions of the scheme. The result of the examination may be announced immediately thereafter but not later than February, 2019.

4. Since the scheme is meant for meritorious students of economically weaker sections whose parental income is less than Rs.1.50 lakh per annum, the standard of examination may be maintained to ensure that only meritorious students are selected in the examination for award of scholarships. All the States/UTs are therefore requested to give wide publicity to the scheme along with revised guidelines of the schemes issued by this Ministry vide a letter No. 1-7/2018-SS dated 20th April, 2018 (copy enclosed), so that sufficient number of students are able to appear in the examination leading to selection of meritorious students in full strength so that the allotted quota of scholarships for States/UTs are fulfilled.

5. The students shall have minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination for appearing in selection test for award of NMMS scholarships (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST) as prescribed in the terms & conditions of this scheme. At the time of selection for the award of scholarship, the following conditions may apply:

- (i) The students must pass both the tests i.e. MAT and SAT with at least 40 % marks in aggregate taken together for these two tests. For the SC/ST students, this cut off will be 32% marks.
- (ii) The student must have scored at least 55% mark or equivalent grade in Class VIII examination. There will be 5 % relaxation for SC/ST students.

6. The scholarships is provided to the students studying as regular students in class IX in Government, Government-aided and Local Body schools of State / UT Governments which are renewed till class XII subject to fulfilment of certain terms and condition of the scheme. The awardees should get minimum of 55% marks in class IX and XI and 60% marks in class X for continuance of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students). The students studying in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are not entitled to get scholarship under this scheme. Similarly those students studying in Residential schools run by the State Government Institutions where facilities like boarding, lodging and education are provided, and students studying in private schools including Sainik Schools are also not eligible for the scholarship under the scheme.

7. The result declared by State/UT Governments, which includes all qualified candidates is required to be sent to the Ministry in soft copy latest by 4th week of April, 2019 in a prescribed format attached herewith, for internal checking & verification at back end on NSP.

8. The proposals for award of the scholarships to the selected students are to be received in this Ministry, on-line through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) with aadhaar seeded bank accounts Ministry in the first Quarter of academic year 2019-20 for enabling this Ministry to sanction funds for timely disbursement of scholarships to the selected students. You are requested to take action towards this end immediately.

Yours faithfully,



(V.T.Likhar)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Tele No.: 011-23381782

Copy for information and necessary action to: Nodal Officers (NMMSS), all States/UTs.

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F. No.1-7/2018-SS
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 20th April, 2018

To

The Principal Secretary/Secretary (Education)
All State/UT Governments,
(As per list attached)

Subject: Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS) of the Department of School Education and Literacy - regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to Central Sector Scheme "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme of the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development which is being implemented since 2008 with an 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.

2. In this regard, it is to inform you that scheme is going to continue beyond XII plan period for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20. As per the latest provisions under the scheme, the following guidelines have been changed with effect from April, 2017 (the revised guidelines of the scheme are attached herewith):

- (i) The rate of scholarship is enhanced from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 12000/- per annum.
- (ii) The scholarship will be disbursed in one instalment in a year i.e. the quarterly basis payment pattern will no longer be applicable for the scholarship.
- (iii) The criteria for qualifying NMMSS Exam will be aggregate of Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and Mental Ability Test (MAT) to be taken together at minimum of 40% (32% for SC/ST students). Therefore, the earlier provision of securing 40% marks in each SAT and MAT will no longer be applicable.

3. In view of above, you are requested to give wide publicity to the scheme through the revised guidelines so that sufficient number of students are able to appear in the examination leading to selection of meritorious students in full strength so that the allotted quota for States/UTs are fulfilled.

Yours faithfully,



(Vinayak T. Likhar)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. No.011- 23381782

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The Nodal Officer of all States/UTs for NMMSS.
2. DGM, State Bank of India, Main Branch, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
3. NIC Cell, MHRD for updating the guidelines on MHRD dashboard.
4. Shri S.B.Singh, DDG, NIC, CGO Complex, New Delhi, for updating guidelines on National Scholarship Portal (NSP).
5. Shri S.K. Mathur, Joint Controller General of Accounts, O/o CGA, Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi
6. Shri Narendra Bhooshan, DDG, UIDAI, Jeewandeep Building, New Delhi



(Vinayak T. Likhar)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. No.011- 23381782

**CENTRALLY SPONSORED NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME**

1.0 The Scheme:

- 1.1 Under this scheme, 100,000 scholarships are awarded to the gifted or meritorious students whose parental income is not more than Rs. 1,50,000/- per annum from all sources. Each State /UT have fixed quota of scholarship as given at Annexure of concerned age group of class VII and VIII. The scheme would provide reservation to different categories of students as per the State/UT norms; as different States/UTs have their own norms of reservation.
- 1.2 These scholarships will be provided on yearly basis to the students studying as regular students in class IX in a Government, Government-aided and local body schools which will be renewed for classes X, XI and XII. Thus the scholarships will be for a maximum period of four years.
- 1.3 The amount of scholarship will be Rs. 12000/- per annum @ Rs. 1000 per month.
- 1.4 A separate examination shall be conducted by the State Governments/UT Administrations for selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarships in the States/UTs.

2.0 Procedure for Selection of Awardee Students:

- 2.1 Each State/UT will conduct its own test for selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship. The State Level Examination may consist of the following two tests:
 - (i) Mental Ability Test (MAT)
 - (ii) Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- 2.2 The students shall have minimum of 55 % marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination for appearing in selection test for award of scholarship (relax able by 5% for SC/ST students). The students should be studying as regular student in a Government, Government-aided and local body schools.
- 2.3 **Mental Ability Test** may consist of 90 multiple-choice questions testing verbal and non-verbal meta-cognitive abilities like reasoning and critical thinking. The questions in the test may be on analogy, classification, numerical series, pattern perception, hidden figure etc.
- 2.4 **Scholastic Aptitude Test** may consist of 90 multiple-choice questions covering subjects namely, science, social studies and mathematics as taught in classes VII and VIII.

2.5 Duration of the Test

Each test will be of 90 minutes duration. Children with disability will be given extra time, as applicable.

3.0 Declaration of Results

3.1 For selecting the students, the following conditions may apply:

- (i) The students must pass both the tests i.e. MAT and SAT with at least 40 % marks in aggregate taken together for these two tests. For the SC/ST students, this cut off will be 32% marks.
- (ii) At the time of selection for the award of scholarship the student must have scored at least 55% mark or equivalent grade in Class VIII examination. There will be 5 % relaxation for SC/ST students.
- (iii) The awardees should satisfy the eligibilities and the conditions mentioned in the scheme.

4.0 Disbursement of Scholarships

- 4.1 A student can avail only one Scholarship under any scheme.
- 4.2 The awardees will be required to open bank accounts preferably in SBI, or any public sector bank or any scheduled bank which has core banking facility.
- 4.3 The State Governments / UT Administrations shall normally send the proposals/ list of beneficiaries on-line on the Scholarship Portal. The Ministry will scrutinize the proposal and sanction funds from Annual Budget Provision for releasing them to SBI, the implementing bank for scheme for disbursal of scholarships to students directly into their bank accounts by electronic transfer.
- 4.4 The awardees should get minimum of 55% marks in Class IX and XI and 60% in Class X for continuance of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST candidates) in next higher classes.
- 4.5 SBI will ensure that the scholarship is paid to awardees in one go (Rs. 12000) immediately after getting the funds and the lists from the Ministry.
- 4.6 SBI will instruct some of its branches to coordinate with the State Education Department in connection with the payment of scholarships.

5. General Eligibility Conditions

- 5.1 An awardee is eligible for the scholarship provided he/she:
 - i. takes up studies in approved courses.

- ii. maintains good conduct as certified by the Head of the College/Institution and continues his/her studies as a regular student in a Government/Government-aided /Local Body school.
- iii. does not absent himself/herself without proper leave.
- iv. takes up studies on a whole time basis.
- v. does not take up any job.

- 5.2 No scholarship shall be available for studies abroad for any course.
- 5.3 No claim for scholarship arrears will be entertained after the expiry of 12 months of the academic session for which one has applied for the claim.
- 5.4 In case any awardee leaves his/her course of study within one month of registration/admission, no scholarship shall be paid to him/her.
- 5.5 In case awardee is not able to appear at the annual examination due to serious illness, one should send the medical certificate through the Head of the Institution within three months of one's falling ill. The duration of illness should be clearly certified by a specialist, who is a Registered Medical Practitioner. The facility will be available to the awardee to continue the same course in which one is studying provided the principal or the head of the institution certifies that the overall performance of the awardee during the year is 50% or above.
- 5.6 The awardee must join the next class/desired course within 3 months of the declaration of the result of the previous class/course.
- 5.7 Scholarship shall be deemed to be discontinued with any gap of one academic session in studies at any time due to any reason.
- 5.8 Scholarship once discontinued on the basis of the rules of disbursement of scholarship cannot be revived under any circumstances.
- 5.9 All rules are subject to change from time to time, as and when required, which will be binding on all awardees.

6.0 Eligibility and other conditions for starting and continuing of Scholarship at Secondary and Higher Secondary Stage

- 6.1 The awardees should get clear promotion from class VIII to Class IX for being eligible for starting the scholarship.
- 6.2 The scholarship at the secondary and higher secondary stage or equivalent classes IX to XII is payable for a maximum period of four years for studies in India only.
- 6.3 No scholarship at this stage is payable for studying diploma/certificate level courses.
- 6.4 For continuing the scholarship in class X and XII, the awardees should get clear promotion from class IX to class X and from class XI to class XII in the first attempt with 55% marks (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students)

- 6.5 The awardees must obtain a minimum of 60 per cent marks in Class X (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students) examination or equivalent examination for continuation of the scholarship at higher secondary stage.
- 6.6 In case an institution/school does not conduct an examination at the end of Class IX and / or Class XI, the scholarship for the second year will be continued on the submission of a certificate to this effect from the Head of the Institution/School.
- 7.0 The scheme will be further in operation beyond March 2017 from the financial year 2017-18 and the selection test for the awarded of scholarship will be conducted for Class IX students in November every year as a separate test by the State Governments/UT Administrations.
- 8.0 A Technical Support Group (TSG) consisting of Consultants / support staff etc. may be constituted for assisting in effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme.
- 9.0 The scheme will be monitored in the Department at regular intervals with the concerned Stake holders.
- 10.0 The scheme may be reviewed after three years.

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

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