

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1709
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014
HIDDEN TALENTS
Sonker Smt. Neelam

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to develop hidden talents of poor students at school and college levels in the country including the rural/ backward areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and
- (d) the details of the other schemes being implemented by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): The National Talent Scholarship Scheme (NTS), for identification of talented students and awarding them with scholarships, is being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme is also being implemented by MHRD with the objective of awarding scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their study at secondary stage. Further, the Department of Higher Education, MHRD is implementing Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students with the objective to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from poor families for pursuing higher studies. Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology with the objective of attracting best talent in science and to promote scientific research by youth.