(C) CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF TOP CLASS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR OBC, EBC AND DNT STUDENTS

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the scheme is to provide premium education to the meritorious students belonging to OBC, EBC and DNT categories by funding their education from Class 9 onwards till they complete Class 12.

2. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

All the OBC, EBC and DNT students studying in the Top Class Schools identified as per the modalities of the scheme with household annual income of less than Rs. 2.5 lakhs would be eligible for the scheme. The number of slots for each State would be allocated based on the OBC population data available. The sanction of scholarship would be based on merit and is done using online portal.

3. MODALITIES

The scheme would be implemented in the following manner:

a) The top performing schools which consistently secure 100% passes in the Classes 10^{th} 12^{th} would be selected by a selection committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (BC) and with representation from Department of School Education and the NITI Ayog. These schools will be termed as 'Top Class Schools (TCSs)' for the purpose of this scheme.
b) The TCSs can be public (Central/State/Local Body) or aided schools or private schools.
c) The number of slots available under the scheme for each State and each class would be announced in the month of April each year.
d) At least 30% of these scholarships are reserved for girls.
e) The OBC/EBC/DNT students already studying in the TCSs can apply on the National Scholarship Portal for the scholarship along with the marks they have obtained in the final exam of the previous class.
f) These applications have to be verified online by the Nodal Officers of the School, and confirmed by the State Government online.
g) There shall be a State-wise merit list for each class for boys and girls separately prepared on the basis of the marks obtained in the final exam of the previous class, and allocation of the scholarships shall be automatically be done on the merit.

4. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

This is a central sector component under Centrally Sponsored scheme, and would be implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the assistance of the State Governments and the National Scholarship Portal.

5. METHODOLOGY OF ASSISTANCE/ RELEASE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

i. The release of funds will be directly into the account of beneficiaries through DBT mode.
ii. Payment shall be made in on instalment to be released before 15th August each year.
iii. The implementation of the scheme would be in accordance with the provisions of GFR 2017.

6. INSTITUITIONS ELIGIBLE AND QUANTUM OF ASSISTANCE

(i) The top class schools which have maintained 100% pass percentage in the 10th and 12 class exams shall be shortlisted by a committee Chaired by the Joint Secretary (BC) in the Ministry and with representation from Department of School Education and NITI Ayog.

(ii) The grants will be provided for tuition fee, hostel fee and other charges as required by the school, subject to a maximum of Rs. 75,000/- per annum per student of class 9 and 10 and Rs. 1,25,000/- per annum per student of class 11 and 12.

7. OTHER CONDITIONS

(i) The students must have a Bank Account and while applying under the scheme should provide all necessary details.

(ii) The shortlisted School should have Aadhaar Based Attendance System that can be integrated into a central portal, if required.

(iii) Students studying in schools assisted under this Scheme shall not be eligible for assistance under any other scheme of the Government for the items/purpose already covered under thisScheme.

8. MONITORING

(i) The designated portal shall allow updating of the information on all the given performance criteria at regular intervals by the students.

(ii) A real time Data Management Information System (MIS) for collection and dissemination of progress of the scheme will be put in place for better reporting on output outcome indicators. The MIS of the scheme will be linked through API to 'Output Outcome Monitoring Framework' (OOMF) Dashboard.

(iii) From time to time, beneficiaries may be contacted over phone or through personal visit to know the impact of the scheme and also to take decision for continuation or otherwise of grants at any time.

8. PROCEDURE FOR MODIFICATION OF THE GUIDELINES:

The detailed guidelines regarding eligibility conditions for availing assistance under the scheme, procedure and selection of candidates and other terms and conditions along with the extent of support are provided, may be modified from time to time, according to needs, with the approval of the Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment and other competent authority.

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