

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION, ASSAM
KAHILIPARA, GUWAHATI-19

No.DHE/EG/NSP/1/2019/101

Dated Kahilipara, the 01/10/2020

From:- Sri Joy Ram Hazarika, AES
Dy. Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19.

To,

1. The Registrar (All)
Universities of Assam. .
2. The Principal (All)
Govt. & Provincialized Colleges of Assam.

Sub:- Implementation of three Scholarships Schemes for Minority students
through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for the year 2020-21.

Ref:- Letter No. CADA-309/2020-21/31-37, Dated 11/09/2020
Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith a letter alongwith relevant documents received from the Directorate of Char Areas Development Assam, Hengrabari Road, Dispur, Guwahati-06 regarding Implementation of three Scholarships Schemes for Minority students through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for the year 2020-21 which is self explanatory for examination and taking further action from your end as desired.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully



Dy. Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19.

Memo No. DHE/EG/NSP/1/2019/101-A

Copy to:

1. The Directorate of Char Areas Development Assam, Hengrabari Road,
Dispur, Guwahati-06.

Dy. Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

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Kahilipara, Guwahati-19



GOVT. OF ASSAM

DIRECTORATE OF CHAR AREAS DEVELOPMENT ASSAM
HENGRABARI ROAD, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6

No.CADA-309/2020-21/31-37

Dated Dispur, the 11th September'2020

From : Director,
Char Areas Development Assam and
State Nodal Officer, Dispur, Guwahati-6

To : 1. The Director, Higher Education, Kahilipara, Guwahati
2. The Director, Technical Education, Kahilipara, Guwahati
3. The Director, Medical Education, Sixmile, Guwahati
4. Director, Secondary Education, Kahilipara, Guwahati
5. Director, Elementary Education, Kahilipara, Guwahati

Sub : Implementation of three Scholarships schemes for Minority Students through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for the year 2020-21.

Sir/Madam,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the Minutes of meeting held on 31-08-2020 with a request to go through the decisions mentioned in the Minutes and apprise all your institutions associated with availing of Scholarship for Minority students under your respective jurisdiction.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Encl : As above.

Yours faithfully

Director

Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Memo No.CADA-309/2020-21/

Dated Dispur, the 11th September'2020

Copy to :

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Welfare of Minorities and Development Department, Dispur, for favour of information.
2. The Director, Assam Minority Development Board for information and necessary action.

Director

Char Areas Development Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6



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Minutes of the Meeting held through Video Conference under the Chairpersonship of Joint Secretary (Edn), Ministry of Minority Affairs on 31.08.2020 at 10:00 AM in 'Manthan', 11th Floor, CGO Complex, New Delhi regarding the implementation of three Scholarship Schemes for Minorities through National Scholarship Portal during 2020-21

Ms Niva Singh, Joint Secretary (Edn), Ministry of Minority Affairs took a meeting through video conference on 31.08.2020 with all participating States/UTs to discuss issues regarding the implementation of three Scholarship Schemes for Minorities through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) during 2020-21. Representatives from NIC, HQ participated in the deliberations. A list of participants is annexed.

2. Initiating the discussions, Joint Secretary (Education) welcomed all participants and appreciated the contributions and hard work of NSP team, NIC and SNOs, DNOs and their teams from all participating States/UTs for successful implementation of three scholarship schemes for minorities for FY 2019-20 and expected that their performance would be even better during FY 2020-21. She stated that during this year, while the NSP portal has started late and the pandemic situation continues, FY 2020-21 seems to be more challenging due to severe limitations and time constraints and the SNOs, DNOs and their teams have to work together with all stakeholders for better and successful implementation of three scholarship schemes for minorities.
3. She stated that the verification at L1 & L2 levels should be done with due diligence by INO/DNO/SNO for removal of fake applications so that there is no need of any revalidation process after L-2 level verification. This only delays the payment of scholarship every year. Further, she asked to analyze the reasons for receipt of less renewal applications every year, as compared to the eligible renewal applicants, so that Ministry may take remedial measures accordingly. She also emphasized to speed up the process of KYC registration of institutions on NSP portal through better publicity/ advertisement and awareness at INO level.
4. Thereafter, Shri Dhruv Chakravarty, Dy. Secretary (Scholarships) requested Shri Shashi Bhushan, Dy. DG, NIC (NSP) for a presentation on the last year's performance of all States/UTs in respect of three scholarship schemes and the modalities for implementation of these schemes during 2020-21. NIC presented a comparative study on the performance of all States/UTs under the three schemes of MoMA. It was informed that a large number of applications remained unverified at L1 and L2 levels requiring their attention during 2020-21. It was also informed about the States with large number of rejections during revalidation process and the States with higher pendency of KYC registration. Hence, NIC requested all States/UTs to verify the applications sincerely and to complete the process till the last beneficiary and complete the KYC registration of the pending institutes so that the students of these institutes would be able to avail the benefit of the scholarship schemes in FY 2020-21.

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5. DS (SS) added that if large number of institutes remains out of the system, it will result into loss of scholarships to students studying in these institutes defeating the purpose of implementation of these schemes of MoMA.

6. NSP, NIC proceeded with the presentation and explained the following changes in NSP during 2020-21:

- a. The option for filling fee details (Admission Fee, Tuition Fee and Miscellaneous Fee) will not be provided to students from this Academic Year (2020-21). Instead, it is to be filled by the Institutes. NSP team has made a provision for Institutes to enter course-wise fee (Admission Fee, Tuition Fee and Miscellaneous Fee) details in Institutes' profile section. During verification at Institute level, the fee will auto populated in student application form as per the details entered by Institutes in their profile. The Institutes can further edit the fee details for individual applications, based on various waivers given for fee components to specific students.
- b. New module of making payments through PFMS, wherein the Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) at State/UT (Agency level) will now be applied at NSP, instead of PFMS. During the year 2020-21, the States/UTs will no longer be required to apply DSC on PFMS portal.
- c. In case of bank account validation failure or payment failure, due to which we are unable to send scholarship payment to applicants, NSP is giving applicants an option to update their bank account. Now it has been decided that this facility to applicants to update the bank account shall be provided only once, which can be given either after bank account validation failure or after payment failure.

7. DS (SS) added that due to the above new provision for applying DSC on NSP portal, the accountability of SNO will increase and simultaneously the payment process will be expedited. DS (SS) also mentioned that since NIC is a centralised portal, working under DBT Mission, Cabinet Secretariat, and has its own structural limitations. Hence, the request for any change i.e. extension for timelines of L1 and L2 level verification and revalidation by States/UTs should be sent to Ministry only in exceptional cases.

8. NIC has asked the States of Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Chhattisgarh, where some new districts have been created, to send the details of newly created districts and their erstwhile districts so that the institutions belonging to the erstwhile districts could be shifted to the newly created districts on NSP portal. NIC also requested these states that they may not reject the renewal applicants of these districts on the basis of wrong districts mentioned in the application form and the concerned DNOs may verify such renewal applications of FY 2020-21. Also, the details of the district Nodal Officers of these new districts may be registered on NSP portal.

9. J&K team requested MoMA to provide the information of SNO of Ladakh for separation of works relating to UT of Ladakh. MoMA informed that the separate SNO of Ladakh has already been nominated and communicated to NIC for the new login creation on NSP portal. The SNO of Ladakh has confirmed the receipt of new login credential, however, it was informed to NIC that the provisions such as KYC approval etc. is not working in the SNO login. NIC informed that it will look into this issue and resolve soon.

10. JS (Edn) also asked States/UTs to share their view with other states, related to the challenges/hardships faced by the students in submitting the hard copy of the documents to the verification authority, since the institutions especially schools are closed in the states. Some States like Bihar raised the concern that in such situations, it is difficult to verify the online application of the students without having their documents. The SNO of Uttar Pradesh shared his views that the documents and other information of the students are already available with the Institutes. Hence, there should not be any difficulty in verifying at INO/DNO/SNO levels. However, if required, the students may be contacted personally by the INO/DNO to submit their documents for the verification.

11. The issue of data sharing was also raised by JS (Edn.) and it was reiterated that, as intimated to States and UTs earlier- the data shall be shared only at the end of the scholarship cycle as per the approved protocol of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

12. After detailed deliberations with all State/UTs, the following decisions have been taken:

- i. The existing guidelines of the three Scholarship Schemes stipulate the requirement of 50% marks in previous final examinations for applicants under both - the fresh as well as the renewal categories. However, due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic in FY 2020-21, many States/UT's may have decided to promote students to next class without conducting final examinations and hence the stipulation may have to be relaxed for this year.

DS (SS) requested all States/UTs to send their views on the issue with the approval of Competent Authority and after due consultation with the respective Departments of Elementary/Higher/Technical Education within a weeks' time to enable MOMA to take a decision in the matter. Karnataka, in particular was requested to share its position/decision related to the eligibility criteria based on marks for the State Scholarship Scheme, to enable MOMA to consider whether something similar could be adopted for its 3 scholarship schemes for minorities.

[Action: M/o Minority Affairs and All States/UTs]

- ii. States/UTs may also take a decision on the 'Date of Commencement of classes during 2020-21' which is to be filled by an applicant while filling up the application form and communicate the same in their respective lower formations for information of their applicants to apply on the NSP Portal accordingly.

[Action: All States/UTs]

- iii. Status of advertisements and publicity for implementation of 3 Scholarship Schemes and preparedness of States/UTs for FY 2020-21.

All States/UTs have been requested to give wide publicity of three scholarship schemes through print media and other media. Awareness / training programmes may also be conducted for DNOs/INOs through regular VCs in the State. Efforts may also be made to place hoardings at District Collectorate Offices to promote the awareness for the Institution Registration, applicants, etc on NSP portal.

[Action: All States/UTs]

- iv. Progress of KYC registration of Institutions on NSP Portal.

It was informed by some States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu that the institutions located in the minority concentrated areas are already been registered on NSP portal. However, in the interest of schemes and increase in the number of applicants, rigorous exercise for KYC registration of left out institutes may be undertaken by all States/UTs. DS (SS) also advised States/UTs for proper advertisement and publicity to complete the KYC registration and to push DNOs/INOs by conducting regular VC.

[Action: All States/UTs]

- v. Efforts of States/UTs for 100% Aadhaar based beneficiary coverage.

It was informed that in FY 2019-20, 80% Aadhaar based applications were received on NSP portal. However, US (SS) requested all State/UTs to give wide publicity to increase the number of Aadhaar based applications under 3 Scholarship Schemes on NSP Portal. Receipt of more Aadhaar applications will minimize the chances of fraud and duplicity of the applicants. Presently, for non-Aadhaar applicants, we cannot deny the Scholarship. It