Date 28/09/2017

It is stated that NTS Scholarship disbursement rules were amended by Review Committee on 03<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 & 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 (Minutes of the copy enclosed for the reference) and the same were implemented from 2015-16 & 2017-18 respectively . In these rule, the time period was reduced from 24 months to 12 months for submitting the NTS claim bill. The claim bill is to be submitted for each class/year separately before 31st December every year but not later than 31st March. After that Scholarship will be discontinued once for all.

The details of grievance, representation & RTI are given below :-

- 1. Numbers of grievances & representations received regarding restoring the claim during 2015-16 & 2016-17.
- 2. Numbers of RTI received regarding late submission of the claim during 2015-16 & 2016-17.

The details of NTS Scholarship has been discontinued by the Competent Authroity during 2015-16 & 2016-17 are given below :-

- 1. No. of NTS Scholarship has been discontinued due to late submission in 2015-16
- 2. No. of NTS Scholarship has been discontinued due to late submission in 2016-17

Further, it is mention that some NTS Scholarship claim bills were under process for discontinuation in the Under Secretary's folder and these are 2015-16 - 21 no. & 2016-17 - 66 no.

As per the data given above, the scholarships are being discontinued on the basis of the amended rule from 2015-16. It is proposed that we may relook into the rules in the Review Committee in the month of October,2017.

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#### EDUCATIONAL SURVEY DIVISION

## National Talent Search Scheme Minutes of the Review Committee Meeting held on October 30th, 2017

The Review Committee Meeting of National Talent Search Examination was held on October 30th, 2017 at Conference Hall, First Floor, Zakir Hussain Khand, NCERT, New Delhi from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. The meeting was Chaired by Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director NCERT. The list of members present in the meeting and the members who were not able to attend the meeting is placed as Annexure I.

Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director NCERT & Chairperson, of the committee welcomed all the members and shared the purpose of the meeting. In his opening remarks he addressed the issues related to implementation of the National Talent Search Scheme (NTSS). He requested the members to deliberate on these issues so that objectives of the NTSS can be achieved in a desirable manner. Prof. Indrani Bhaduri, Head, Educational Survey Division, welcoming the participants conveyed that NTSE is very prestigious scheme of NCERT wherein every year 1000 meritorious students across all the States/UTs of the country are selected through a two-tier written examination and they are provided with scholarships. She presented the agenda for the meeting.

Dr. Sukhvinder, Programme Co-ordinator provided a brief on historical background of the NTS Scheme and highlighted the metamorphosis of NTS Scheme from its inception. The present structure of scheme of selection of national scholars through three different test papers was also shared. During the meeting the following points were discussed:

#### Agenda 1: Scrapping of Negative Marking in NTS Examination

It has been observed that prior to 2014, when there was no negative marking in the Stage-II of the NTS Examination scheme, all the 1000 scholarships were awarded and there was no shortfall of awardees in any category. But after the introduction of Negative marking there is a shortfall of awardees. Therefore, the committee took the decision to discontinue the practice of negative marking from Stage-II NTS Examination. This will be applicable from the Stage-II examination scheduled from May 2018.

### Agenda 2: Scrapping of Language Test in NTS Examination

Language Test was first introduced in NTS Stage II examination in the year 2013 at the National Level. In the year 2012-13, States/UTs did not conduct Language Test at Stage I Exam. The Language test at Stage- II is qualifying in nature and marks scored by the candidates in Language Test are not included for considering merit. The committee was of the opinion that Language test was not serving its purpose. Moreover it was discussed that it did not justify testing students in only two languages whereas there are several other regional languages.

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# Agenda 3: Amendments in rules and regulations for disbursement of scholarships

Dr. Gulfam, the Programme Coordinator for Disbursement of Scholarships informed the members about the procedure for claiming of NTS Scholarship. The following amendments were approved by the committee for disbursement of the scholarships.

- (i) Rule No.1.(II)(a): If an awardee is getting scholarships from other sources on regular basis, then he has to choose only one of the scholarship. In such cases the NTS Scholarship will be temporarily discontinued for that year/period. His /her scholarship will be once again resumed if he/she approaches once again to NCERT for seeking NTS Scholarship after fulfilling other conditions.
- (ii)Rule no.1.(IV) (a): An awardee can submit his claim bills any time during the course of study. However, the claim bills are to be submitted for each class/year separately.
- (iii)Rule no.1.(IV)(b): 'If any awardee did not resubmit his/her claim bills within twelve months after receiving from NCERT office in online mode. The scholarship of such candidates will be discontinued once for all'. This rule is dropped.
- (iv) Rule no. 2.(IV)(b) and rule No. 3.(iii)(a): For seeking scholarship the awardees has to pass in all subject (core subject) in first attempt for which a student has registered /appeared. If an awardee fails in any core subject, his/her NTS scholarship will be discontinued forever.

Apart from above three agenda items, the committee also decided to revive the NTS Scholarship of all those awardees whose scholarship has been discontinued due to late submission of claim bills.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director, NCERT and Chairperson of the committee.

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