CHAPTER XIV

SCHOLARSHIPS

The philosophical foundation of scholarships is that it is a payment, in part or in full, to a student whose financial condition is not satisfactory so that he may prosecute his studies without experiencing pecuniary difficulties. Sometimes a scholarship to a student is in recognition of his meritorious performance at an examination whatever may be his financial condition. National scholarships are of this kind. Generally, however, financial condition is the determining factor. In a country like India, certain communities are given scholarships on the ground that they are educationally backward.

A decisive step in the encouragement of Higher Education in Assam was taken by Sir Charles Elliot who decided to award a scholarship of Rs. 20 a month to all boys who were the sons of parents actually resident or employed in the Brahmaputra valley who passed the entrance examination and who went up to study for the First Arts and the degree examination in any Bengal College. There was no limit to the number of scholarships that could be awarded. It was 15 in 1882-83, and 33 in 1886. In 1887 Sir William Ward decided to limit the number of scholarships
to 14 for Brahmaputra Valley, three to the natives of the hill districts, and 8 to the non-natives of the valley. The scholarships were awarded to those who obtained the highest number of marks at the Entrance Examination. The scholarships were classified into two, junior and senior. The junior scholarships were awarded to those who were studying for the F.A. examination for a period of two years. All junior scholarship holders who had passed the First Arts Examination within two years of passing the entrance examination were entitled to scholarships for a further period of two years to enable them to read for their degree examination. They were then called senior scholars though the amount of scholarship was the same as that of junior scholarship, Rs.20 per month. All the senior scholars were allowed to convert at their discretion, their scholarships into medical scholarships tenable for five years in the Medical College or into Engineering Scholarships tenable in an Engineering College. It appears that two thirds of those that passed the Entrance Examination were awarded scholarships.

In 1898, Government awarded two junior scholarships of the value of Rs. 25 per month to two successful candidates educated at schools in the Province and who obtained the highest number of marks in the aggregate at the
Entrance examination provided they had passed in the first division. The total number of scholarships awarded to the successful candidates at the entrance examination was 36 distributed as follows, eleven to the Surma Valley, 14 to the Brahmaputra Valley, 8 to the non natives of that valley and 3 to the hill districts.

The eleven Surma valley scholarships were of the second grade carrying a monthly stipend of Rs.15. Eight of these were awarded to the successful candidates who obtained the highest number of marks in the aggregate at the Entrance Examination, two were reserved for two successful Muhammadan candidates who failed to secure any of the eight scholarships, and one was reserved for a native of Cachar provided he did not get any one of the eight Surma Valley scholarships.

The fourteen scholarships reserved for the Brahmaputra Valley and the three scholarships reserved for the hill districts were of the first grade of Rs.20 a month. They were awarded to the successful candidates who obtained the highest number of marks at the entrance examination. Of the 14 scholarships eight were reserved for the successful candidates in order of merit. They were divided into three grades. The first grade carried Rs.20 a month. They were available only to those who passed in the first
division. The second grade carried a sum of Rs. 15 a month available to those who passed in the second division. The third grade carried Rs. 10 a month available to those who passed in the third division. Non-natives were eligible for scholarships. A junior scholarship could be held at any affiliated college in Bengal and also in the United Kingdom. It could be converted into a medical scholarship of four years duration at the Medical School at Dibrugarh.

Senior Scholarships:

Two senior scholarships carrying Rs. 25 per month were awarded to two successful candidates educated in schools in the Province who obtained the highest aggregate marks at the F.A. examination provided they passed in the first or second division. This scholarship was in lieu of and not in addition to the junior scholarships.

A junior scholarship holder on passing the First Arts Examination was awarded the senior scholarship equal in value provided he passed the First Arts examination in the first or second division within two years after passing the Entrance examination. A senior scholarship was tenable for a period of two years in any affiliated college in Bengal or in the United Kingdom, provided the candidate was promoted to the fourth year. Any student who
did not obtain a senior scholarship owing to the low position in the pass list could on successfully passing the First Arts Examination be awarded a senior scholarship provided he satisfied certain conditions laid down by Government.

In 1901 the Chief Commissioner laid down that junior scholarships awarded to the natives of the Assam Valley and the Hill districts would be tenable at the local college, Gauhati. The Welsh Mission represented to the Chief Commissioner that the Khasi boys would do better at Calcutta than at Gauhati because they generally offered Latin as their second language. But no provision was made to teach that language at Gauhati. The Chief Commissioner therefore permitted the Khasi boys to study at Calcutta.

In 1905 it was found that a very large expenditure was incurred on scholarships for collegiate education. Since 1898 to 1905, one third of the students that passed the Entrance Examination received scholarships. In some years it was even 40 percent. In Bengal the proportion of scholarships to passes was only five percent. The Education Commission of 1882 recommended that it should be limited to two percent of the total educational expenditure. But in Assam it was nine percent which was three
times of the Bengal figure. The expenditure in this Province on collegiate education was still higher when compared to that incurred in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces. Thus, in Assam scholarships were granted on a liberal scale. But the significant fact was that more than fifty percent of the scholarship holders failed to pass the first arts examination. The most obvious purpose with which the State Scholarships were granted was to enable the poor but intelligent students to pass the examination. But in Assam scholarships were given mechanically upon the results of the Entrance Examination and without regard to the financial condition of the candidates. Scholarship must stimulate generally higher education amongst classes who were not very favourably disposed towards it. Therefore the Chief Commissioner suggested that the scholarships should be limited to 25 percent of the passes at the Entrance Examination. On this basis the number of junior scholarships to be annually awarded would be 32. Two of them would be reserved for allotment by the DPI to deserving students who had failed to secure scholarships in competition and whose circumstances would not permit them to continue their studies without one. The remaining 30 scholarships would be allotted according to seniority on the list of the successful candidates of the Entrance Examination.
Some of the scholarships would be reserved to certain communities like the scheduled tribes and Muslims. To the argument that scholarships should be awarded on the basis of results at the Entrance Examination so that better results might be produced, the Chief Commissioner said that the time for such a measure had not yet arrived in Assam because certain sections of the people were at different stages of development. Therefore the reservation of scholarships for particular classes was necessary in order to encourage those who were educationally backward. That is, of the 52 scholarships 30 would be awarded on the basis of the result at the Entrance Examination. But seniority in the pass list would be departed from to secure reservation of 14 scholarships for the students of the Brahmaputra Valley. Of the 14 one should be an Ahom and one should be a Muslim, ten were reserved for the students of the Surma Valley. Of the ten, two should be Muslims and one should be a Jaintia and the remaining 3 of the 30 shall be awarded to the students of the Hill districts. If no qualified candidate was forthcoming for the reserved scholarship it was awarded according to seniority in the list of successful candidates.

As regards the eight scholarships reserved for the children of the families that came from outside Assam
the Chief Commissioner would reduce them to three because Assam was no longer in need of their services for the transaction of its business.

Again, the existing rules were modified in one respect. It appeared to the Chief Commissioner that a large proportion of the students required not two years but three years to complete the First Arts examination successfully. Therefore the DPI was authorised to extend the term to three years in cases where a student failed to pass the first Arts Examination at the end of the second year, provided the student was industrious and promising, provided his financial condition was not good. The value of scholarship should not exceed Rs.20 per month.

All Junior Scholarships except those reserved for the Surma Valley students were tenable at the Cotton College only. But the Chief Commissioner might for special reasons make an exception to this rule in the case of students belonging to the Khasi Hills.

All junior scholarship holders on passing the First Arts Examination in the first or second division within two years, were awarded senior scholarships. The
DPI might relax this rule in the case of a student who passed the First Arts Examination in the first and second division in the third year after passing the Entrance Examination if he belonged to a family which was in financial difficulties and would not be able to continue his studies for the B.A. degree without a scholarship. But the Principal of the College must recommend that the student deserved the scholarship.

In special cases and at the discretion of the DPI a senior scholarship could be awarded to a student who had passed the First Arts Examination in the third division within two years after passing the Entrance Examination. This concession was made in the case of promising students whose family financial difficulties would not permit him to continue his studies for the B.A. degree examination. But this concession was limited to the residents of the Brahmaputra Valley, Muslims and Hill students.

A senior scholarship was tenable for a period of two years subject to the condition that its holder was promoted to the Fourth Year at the end of the third year. It was held in a college in Bengal notified by the Chief Commissioner. The value of the senior scholarship was Rs.20 per month, in the case of eight recipients who stood first eight in the Arts list. In the case of others
it was Rs. 15 per month. A senior scholarship holder who joined a Medical College was permitted to retain it for a period of five years.

In 1904, it was decided to reduce the number of junior and senior scholarships and also their value. There were protests. The Sarvajanik Sabha of Jorhat represented that junior scholarships should be granted to all students who had passed the Entrance Examination in the first or second division at the existing rates. Charasyam Barua, Secretary Hitasadhini Sabha of Golaghat made a similar representation. The Government therefore revised the rules and said that 32 junior scholarships would be awarded annually to the natives of the Province who had passed the Entrance Examination in the first or second division. But seniority in the pass list would not be observed in all cases. Fifteen scholarships would be reserved for the natives of the Brahmaputra Valley, of whom one should be an Ahom and one should be a Muslim. Eleven scholarships were reserved to the natives of the Surma Valley, of whom two should be Muslims, one should be a resident of Sashar District, one from the Jaintia paraganas, and another from the Manipuris and three Hill tribes. Subject to those reservations, scholarships were awarded according to seniority in the pass list. Two scholarships were placed at
at the disposal of the DPI to be awarded by him to deserving students who though qualified for scholarship had failed to secure them and belonged to the families that were in financial difficulties. As usual a junior scholarship was tenable for a period of two years. In special cases it was extended by the DPI for a third year to students of some promise. But the value of the scholarship was only Rs.10. All junior scholarships were tenable at the Cotton College only. But the Chief Commissioner could permit the hill students to study in one of the Bengal Colleges.

The junior scholarships were divided into three classes. The first two students who secured the highest number of marks were awarded the first class scholarship of the value of Rs.20 per month. The next ten students were awarded a scholarship of the value of Rs.15 a month. The remaining 20 were of Rs. 10 per month. But the students who were permitted to study in one of the Calcutta Colleges were awarded a scholarship of the value of Rs.20 per month.

A junior scholar, with the previous permission of the DPI could opt to medical education at the Berry White Medical School at Dibrugarh and retain the scholarship for a period of four years.
In 1904, for the first time, special scholarships were awarded to female students who had passed the entrance examination and who intended to prosecute their studies for the first arts examination. They were not required any other condition. They must simply pass the examination. No conditions were imposed with a view to encourage female education.

Junior scholarship holders on passing the First Arts Examination in the first or second division were awarded senior scholarships. Two additional senior scholarships were awarded to students who were not awarded the junior scholarships but who had been educated in schools in the Province and who had passed the first Arts Examination in the first or second division and to whom no scholarship was granted by the Government of Bengal. A student was not eligible for a senior scholarship unless he had passed the first Arts Examination in the first or second division within two years of passing the entrance examination. This rule was relaxed by the DPI in the case of students who passed the first Arts Examination in the first or second division within three years of passing the entrance examination provided his financial condition was such that he
would not be able to continue his studies without a scholarship. In special cases a senior scholarship was awarded to a junior scholarship holder who passed the First Arts Examination in the third division within two years of passing the Entrance Examination. This concession was made only in the case of students whose financial condition was such that they would not be able to continue their studies without a scholarship. This scholarship was ordinarily limited to the natives of the Brahmaputra Valley, Cachar district, Jaintia Paraganas and Hill districts, the Manipuris and the Muslims. It was not available to the students of the Surma Valley. A senior scholarship was tenable for two years. It could be availed of in any of the Bengal colleges. The value of the scholarship was Rs. 20 in the case of first eight who obtained the highest number of marks and Rs. 15 in the case of others. A senior scholarship could be converted to a medical scholarship for study of medicine in an approved college for a period of five years. Special senior scholarships were awarded to female students who passed the First Arts Examination and desired to prosecute their studies for the degree examination.

In 1909, the scholarship rules were revised. There were no radical changes in the rules. The DPI was authorised to award scholarships. There were 35 junior
scholarships. Of them three were awarded on the basis of merit. The remaining 32 were divided into classes. Twelve scholarships were awarded to the second grade and the 20 to the third grade. Of the 12 second grade junior scholarships five were allotted to the Surma Valley and seven to the Brahmaputra Valley. Of the 20 third grade junior scholarships eight were allotted to the Surma Valley and 12 to the Brahmaputra Valley.

The second and third grade scholarships were awarded on the basis of results within the valley concerned to candidates who did not get the first grade scholarships. The award was subject to certain conditions. First, the scholarships were reserved to the natives of the division to which they were allotted. Second, one scholarship should be reserved for Muslims, one to the Ahoms and three to the Hill Tribals and one to a poor student. If there were no candidates for the reserved scholarships they were distributed to other candidates on the basis of merit. Vacant scholarships were awarded by the DPI in his discretion to deserving candidates of any division. Scholarships were open only to the students of the high schools recognised by the DPI. The junior scholarship holders were permitted to study in the Aligarh College also. They could study in the Government Veterinary College at Belgaum. Again, where there were first
and second grade colleges in one and the same place, the
scholarship holders must study in the first grade college.
As regards the senior scholarships they were divided into
two grades, the value of the first grade being Rs.25 and
the second grade Rs.20 a month. Three were first grade
and 17 second grade. The first grade scholarships were
awarded to the first three successful candidates. The
second grade was awarded on the basis of the results
within the division to candidates who were not awarded
the first grade scholarships. The 17 second grade schol­
arships were distributed between the two divisions. Seven
were allotted to the Surma Valley and the remaining ten
to the Brahmaputra Valley. The candidates for scholarsh­
ips must be natives of the division concerned to which
the scholarships were allotted. One of them should be a
Muslim, another Ahom and two tribal boys in the Assam
Valley Division. In the Surma Valley two scholarships
were reserved to two Muslims and two for the natives of
the Cachar district, one for the Jaintia Paraganas and one
to the Manipuris. If no qualified candidate was availa­
ble for the reserved scholarships, they were allotted to
others according to seniority in the pass list. Scholar­
ships not availed of in the Division to which they were
allotted might be awarded to the deserving candidates in
the other Division by the D.P.I. in his discretion. In
doing so the DPI was expected to pay regard to the backwardness of the locality.

In 1913, Assam Banti Tezpur demanded that the number of scholarships should be increased. The Chief Commissioner decided to do away with the third grade scholarships and substituted for these an equal number of scholarships of the second grade. The scholarships were allotted to the Divisions on the basis of population. Further the Chief Commissioner thought that the Senior Scholarships should be tenable in Assam Colleges and not in Bengal Colleges, because in Bengal they were admitted not in well equipped colleges. Further if the senior scholarships were tenable in Bengal Colleges it would tend to discourage enrolment in Assam Colleges. Again, outstanding students would have the double benefit. He would be able to compete for scholarships in Bengal and in Assam.

As regards scholarships for the children of the domiciled community Assam Banti demanded the abolition of reservation of scholarships. The Chief Commissioner said that before 1888 no distinction was made between the people of Assam, whether domiciled or non-domiciled. In 1888, eight of the 25 scholarships were reserved to the children of the domiciled community in the Brahmaputra.
Valley. In 1905, this reservation was withdrawn but the boys of the domiciled community were allowed to compete with the residents of the valley for three junior scholarships. It was considered that special reservation was not necessary. Thus, three first grade junior and three first grade senior scholarships were open to all communities including the domiciled community. At the same time the Chief Commissioner decided that while there would be no reservation in favour of members of this community provision should be made for three additional second grade senior scholarships to which they would be eligible subject to the condition they would be eligible for not more than three junior and three senior scholarships. The six additional scholarships thus thrown open to the domiciled community were not provided by the curtailment of the number of scholarships open to the residents of the province but by addition to the total number.

Thus, in 1915, there were 38 Junior Scholarships classified into two, first grade 3 on Rs. 20 a month and second grade 35 on Rs. 15 a month. They were awarded to students who passed the Entrance Examination from the High Schools situated in Assam and recognised by the DPI. The First Grade scholarships were available to all.
The second grade Scholarships were distributed as follows. Surma Valley 13, Assam Valley 16 and Hill Areas 3. Besides there were three additional scholarships of the second grade. The three first grade scholarships were awarded to the best candidates independent of the question of domiciled or non-domiciled or natives. The second grade scholarships were awarded to the next best candidates in the order of merit. But two scholarships were reserved to Muslims and one to Ahom, in the Brahmaputra Valley and three for Muslims, one to the natives of Cachar District, one to a Manipuri and one to Jaintia Paraganas in the Surma Valley. The scholarships in the Hill Areas were reserved to the tribal boys. Three additional scholarships were awarded to the children of the domiciled community, who would have won the scholarship had they been natives of the Province. Again, one scholarship in each division was reserved for award to a deserving student who did not win the ordinary scholarship, but who was in financial difficulties. Except in special cases scholarships were awarded to candidates who had passed the matriculation examination in the first or second division. But this rule was relaxed in the case of students of the Brahmaputra Valley, Cachar District, Jaintia Paraganas, Hill Areas and Muslims. The scholarships were tenable in colleges recognised by the administration. They could be held in any Government
Medical School or Medical College. They were tenable for two years. In exceptional cases the DPI might extend the term to a third year provided the Principal of the College recommended such extension.

In 1913, there were 22 senior scholarships. Of them 3 were of the First Grade and 19 of the second grade. The first grade scholarship carried Rs.25 a month and the second grade Rs.20 a month. The senior scholarships were awarded to those who passed the First Arts Examination of the Calcutta University from one of the colleges in Assam or from Aligarh College. The first grade senior scholarships were open to all students of all communities of both the valleys and for both the sexes. The second grade senior scholarships were distributed among the two valleys in proportion to population strength. The DPI in his discretion granted special scholarships of Rs.15 per month to those who passed creditably from one of the Assam Colleges but who did not obtain a scholarship. The second grade scholarships were awarded to the next best candidates in the order of merit. But one scholarship was reserved to Muslims and one to Ahoms in the Brahmaputra Valley and two to Muslims and two to the natives of the Cachar District, one for the natives of the Jaintia Baraganas, and one to a Manipuri and two to the tribal students. There were two more scholarships.
which were awarded to the candidates of certain communities. The scholarships were tenable for a period of two years. This rule was relaxed in the case of Muslims, natives of the Brahmaputra Valley, Cachar district, Jaintia Paraganas and Hill Areas. The DPI might extend the term of the scholarship to three years under exceptional circumstances.

Post Graduate Scholarship:

For the first time provision was made for the award of two scholarships to post graduate students in 1909. The scholarships of Rs. 40 and Rs. 50 respectively were awarded annually on the result of B.A. and B.Sc. examination to the two most distinguished candidates. The DPI decided the claims of candidates for the scholarship. The scholarship was tenable for two years. They were not available to students who were not students of the Government colleges. In 1914, the value of the scholarship was reduced to Rs. 25.

Post Graduate Research Scholarship:

For the first time provision was made for research scholarships. Only one scholarship of the value of Rs. 100 was awarded to desirable candidates of high academic
qualification who were capable of conducting original research. The award was made by the Government. The candidate must apply to the DPI indicating the subject in which he proposed to carry on research. The scholarship was tenable for a period of two years but not exceeding three years. It was awarded only for one year and then extended year after year up to three years provided the Government was satisfied with the progress of the research scholar. Peculiarly enough the research scholar worked under the guidance of the DPI. The publication of the result of his investigation was left to the discretion of the Government. In 1914 a condition was laid down namely that the candidate must be a distinguished candidate. He must be a native of the Province and was likely to carry on research with success.

Special Scholarships for Muslims:

The year 1909 is the year of Morley-Minto Reforms when the minorities received special attention particularly the Muslims. From 1888 to 1909 one or two scholarships were reserved for Muslims as we had already noted. But in 1909 special scholarships, four junior and three senior, were created for them in Assam. In 1912, the number was increased to 25 of Rs.10 each per month. Of the 25 special scholarships for the Muslims five were
reserved for Muslims in the Assam Valley and 20 in the Surma Valley. Of the five in the Assam Valley three were reserved for the Muslims in Goalpara district. These scholarships were awarded to Muslim students who passed the Matriculation Examination in the first or second division and were not able to obtain ordinary competitive scholarships. But the recipient of scholarship must be economically in a difficult position. Their guardians must be permanent residents and natives of the valley who were not able to provide university education to their children. The scholarships were tenable for two years. Those who passed the First Arts Examination in the first or second division at the end of the second year and did not obtain ordinary senior scholarship were awarded the scholarship. The DPI might extend the period of tenure for another two years to complete the B.A. degree examination.

Special Scholarships for the Backward Communities-

Junior and Senior college scholarships were available to successful candidates in the Matriculation examination who had failed to secure open scholarships. The Principals of the colleges prepared a list of candidates belonging to the Backward communities suitable for the award of the scholarship and sent it to the DPI who
awarded them. The number of scholarships specially available for the backward communities was 21 on Rs.10 per month. They were tenable for two years. They were distributed as follows: Cachar district four, Sylhet 5, Goalpara 2, Kamrup 3, Darrang 2, Nowgong 2, Sibsagar 3, Lakhimpur 2. These scholarships were awarded to students who had passed the matriculation examination from a High School in Assam in the first or second division and whose parents were the natives of Assam and who were unable to provide university education to their children. The scholarships were tenable for two years in the first instance. If the holder of a scholarship passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts or Sciences of the Calcutta University at the end of the second year but did not win senior scholarship the DPI might extend the tenure of the scholarship by another two years so that he might complete the B.A. or B.Sc. degree examination.

Special Female Scholarships:

In 1910 for the first time female scholarships were awarded. In 1910, the Female Education Committee recommended that female education should be promoted. For this purpose, the DPI recommended the institution of female scholarships and two scholarships of Rs.20 and
and Rs.25 per month were created. Thus, there were two Classes of scholarships for the promotion of female education.

Special Scholarships for the Hill Tribes:

In 1909, the Hill tribes were provided with scholarships for the promotion of higher education. There were three junior and two senior scholarships for them.

There were also special scholarships for both the Muslims and the Backward communities. There were five scholarships for Engineering of the value of Rs.10 per month, three for Law of the value of Rs.10 per month and one for the Post-Graduate courses of the value of Rs.50 per month. The Engineering scholarships were tenable for three years and others for two years.

Medical Scholarships:

In 1897, when it was decided to establish the Berry White Medical School, the Principal, Medical Officer and Sanitary Commissioner of Assam recommended that all medical scholarships should be transferred from other places to Dibrugarh. Before 1897, a number of Assamese
were studying in the Calcutta Medical College and the 
Dacca Medical School. The number of scholarships tenable 
in the Dacca Medical School was 16. He also recommeded 
that in addition to scholarships there should be free 
studentships also which should be one-fourth of the num­
ber on rolls excluding the scholarship holders. The sch­
olarships should be held on the same conditions as at 
Dacca Medical School and the free studentships on the 
same conditions that existed at the Patna Medical School.

In 1898, the number of students who were recei­
vings medical scholarships was 16. Of them eight received 
Rs. 4-8-0 and 8 Rs. 4 a month each. These 16 scholarships 
were distributed among the students of all classes, at 
the rate of four in each class. The first and second year 
students received Rs. 4 and the third year and the final 
year students Rs. 4-8-0. Free studentships of the value 
of Rs. 3 per month were also distributed to students. The 
number of free studentships varied from time to time. On 
the average free studentships were awarded to one fourth 
of the non-scholarship students in each class.

The scholarships and free studentships were 
awarded on the basis of the results of the annual exami­
nation. The holders of scholarships were entitled to free
studentships. They were tenable for four years. The students who failed at any examination were not entitled to a scholarship or free studentship.

In 1898, the Chief Commissioner ordered that junior scholarships might be converted into medical scholarships but such scholarships shall be tenable only at the medical school at Dibrugarh for a period of four years. There was no restriction as to the number of junior scholarships that might be converted into medical scholarships. The holders of the scholarships were entitled to free studentships and were not allowed to compete for other scholarships at the school.

In 1901, there were changes in the rules. Four scholarships were awarded annually to the natives of the province of Assam, tenable for a period of four years. Of the four two were reserved for the natives of Brahmaputra Valley and Hill districts. But no scholarship was awarded to candidates who obtained less than 40 percent in the aggregate. The value of the scholarship varied from year to year. In the first year it was Rs. 8 per month, in the second year Rs. 10, in the third year Rs. 12 and in the final year Rs. 14. Besides the scholarships there were six free studentships. They were awarded to the natives of the
Brahmaputra Valley and Hill districts. But no free studentship was awarded to any one who obtained less than 33 percent in the aggregate.

If the required number of candidates did not qualify themselves from the Brahmaputra Valley and the hill districts for the scholarships and free studentships, the balance were awarded to others on the basis of merit.

The scholarships were awarded on the basis of the results of a test examination held by the DPI. The successful candidates must produce a certificate of physical fitness, residence qualification and respectability.

In 1901, certain modifications were introduced in the rules for the award of the medical scholarships. Twelve scholarships were awarded for the first, second and third year students at the rate of Rs. 4 each. The first year scholarships were awarded at the discretion of the Superintendent of the school on the basis of previous record and the circumstances in each case. In the subsequent years it was awarded on the basis of his performance in the examination. Two of the scholarships were reserved for the students of Brahmaputra Valley and the Hill districts.
Besides scholarships 24 free studentships were awarded annually, six of them being awarded in each year. The free studentships were awarded by the Superintendent of the Medical School. Three of the studentships were reserved every year for the natives of the Brahmaputra Valley and Hill districts.

Further four scholarships of the value of Rs.20 a month tenable in the fourth year were awarded at the end of the third year to students selected by the Superintendent on the result of the annual examination. The holders of these scholarships had to give an undertaking to serve the Government for a term of four years if called upon to do so. A bond must be executed by the guardian of the student assuring that the scholarship holder would complete the course. The amount recoverable under the security bond in the event of the scholarship holder relinquishing his studies before taking his diploma or refusing to serve the Government after he had taken it was the amount spent by the Government on his professional education.

In actual practice the scholarship scheme was a failure. All scholarships and studentships were not
availed of. Out of four scholarships and six free studentships available in each year for award to qualified candidates only two scholarships and three studentships were awarded in 1900. In 1901 only one scholarship was awarded. Thus all scholarships were not availed of for the obvious reasons. The students objected to the condition that a successful scholarship holder should enter into government service. The Principal Medical Officer therefore recommended that the existing rules should be modified. He also pointed out that the scholarship holders of the Medical schools at Dacca, Cuttack, Calcutta and Patna were not required to execute an agreement except those who were given special scholarships. Further experience also showed that the rule that scholarships and free studentships should be awarded on the basis of result of a competitive examination to be held before the beginning of the session by the DPI was also very inconvenient and expensive to the Government.

All these facts induced the Chief Commissioner to revise the rules. The value of the scholarship was not revised. The scholarship was tenable only for one year. The competitive examination would be conducted by the Superintendent in his discretion and would also take into consideration the educational qualifications and the economic condition of the candidate for the award
of the scholarship for the first year. The scholarships for the subsequent years were awarded on the basis of the performance of the candidate at the examinations. In the final year four special scholarships of the value of Rs.20 were awarded. The holders of these scholarships and the junior scholarship holders who were allowed to transfer their scholarships to the medical school for the whole period of four years only might be requested to enter into an agreement to serve the government for a term of four years.

Technical Scholarships:

The Education Conference held at Simla in September, 1901 passed a resolution recommending the institution of a number of scholarships to be awarded annually to selected candidates tenable for two years. On 9 October 1902, the Government of India recommended the institution of ten technical scholarships. But on the advice of the Secretary of State, it was decided that instead of announcing its intention to award a definite number of scholarships annually, it would be sufficient to intimate the public that the Government would award scholarships if promising and well qualified candidates were forthcoming. It must however be said that the Government of India never intended to reduce
the number of scholarships. They were prepared to award ten scholarships provided the required number of scholars were forthcoming. The ten scholarships were intended for the whole country.

Till 1907, the State technical scholarships were awarded on experimental basis and the selection of scholars was made at irregular intervals without sufficient regard to the best interests of the students or to the convenience of the institutions at which they proposed to prosecute their studies. In 1908, the Government of India came to the conclusion that the rules and regulations relating to the scholarships should be systematised. Fresh rules were therefore issued. The revised scheme was brought into force in 1908.

The Government of India considered it equitable that all local governments should, as far as possible, be given an equal share in the benefits of the scholarship scheme. Therefore they decided that at least one scholarship should be available annually for each Province provided it had a suitable candidate to nominate, provided the industry to be studied had already been developed or in the process of developing in the Province. It was essential that the applications should be invited only after the industry had been chosen. The scholarships
were tenable in England. The value of the scholarship was £150 per annum payable equally. The Scholars were also paid travelling allowance but if the scholarship is forfeited the candidate was not entitled to free return passage.

In 1911, a State technical scholarship was available for the natives of Assam provided a suitable candidate was forthcoming. The Government decided that the industry to be studied should be weaving, dyeing and furnishing. The candidates must assure the Government that they would continue to interest themselves in the industry concerned after the completion of studies. Merit alone should be taken into account while awarding the scholarships. (1)

Engineering Scholarships:

The rules framed for the award of the engineering scholarships laid down that a student on passing the First Arts Examination and after obtaining a senior

(1) The first awardee for the scholarship was Balindra Kumar Barua. He passed the Entrance Examination in the second Division. He was not the best of the candidates that applied for the scholarship. But his name was recommended by Manik Chandra Barua an uncle of the candidate.
scholarship might convert it into an engineering scholarship tenable in the Engineering Department of the Sibpur College. Or a senior scholarship holder who had passed the B.A. examination in the first attempt and wished to join the Civil Engineering College at Sibpur might also be granted an Engineering Scholarship of the same value.

The Engineering scholarships were tenable for five years in the case of scholars who joined the Engineering College after passing the First Arts Examination and for three years in the case of those who joined the college after passing the B.A. examination in the first attempt.

In 1901, these rules were revised. The revised rules provided six scholarships of the value of Rs.14 each per month for the Mechanical apprentices Department of the Sibpur College. Three of them were reserved for the Assam Valley and the Hill districts and three for the Surma Valley. Scholarships not taken up in one Valley were transferred to another. The scholarships were tenable for five years. They were awarded to those who passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University and must have attained 15 years of age and not more than 17.
After 1947:

We have so far reviewed the position of scholarships before Independence. Before Independence the number of scholarships and studentship available was few. Poor students depended upon public benefactions. The rich constructed Dharamsalas and provided accommodation free of charge. Middle Class families adopted the weekly system. Many families as an act of piety gave food free to poor students once a week. A student in need of financial assistance to prosecute his studies selected seven houses and visited one every week for food. The number of students that a family took depended upon its financial position. The Upper Middle Class entertained as many as seven a week. In some university hostels, some students were given food free for some nominal work such as serving lunch at the lunch time. Some hostels gave food at a concessional rate to poor students. Colleges and Universities had Poor Boys' Fund from which a part or the whole of the fees was paid. This was due to the fact that the number of scholarships available was very small.

Since Independence the position has radically changed. Private sector has ceased to play any part in
the development of education by means of scholarships. The weekly system has disappeared. The Dharamsalas have been converted into rented houses. Since private enterprise has retreated from the field of higher education, the Government has entered the field in a big way. The Government of Assam is spending one crore of rupees on scholarships which is four percent of the total expenditure on education in Assam.

In recent years there has been an enormous increase in the number of scholarships awarded by the Government of Assam. In 1957-58, the number of scholarships awarded by the Government was 727. But in 1971 it was 12,250 for the Post Matric stage alone.

At present scholarships are classified into two categories, pre-matric and post-matric. The Pre-Matric scholarships are awarded on the basis of the results of the examination held for the primary, middle vernacular, middle English, normal, tols and junior madrassahs. The post-matric scholarships are awarded on the basis of results of the examination held for the high school leaving certificate, higher secondary school leaving certificate, central school certificate, senior madrasah and pre-university.
The post-graduate scholarships are awarded on the basis of the results of the B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., B.Sc., (Agri), B.V.Sc. examinations.

Besides the post-graduate scholarships there are research scholarships and overseas scholarships which do not occupy a significant position.

There are also scholarships for various professional courses, national scholarships, national loan scholarships, special scholarships for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes and economically backward classes scholarships.

Post-matric scholarships are further divided into senior state merit scholarships, junior state merit scholarships, merit cum means scholarships, scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes scholarships, poor scholarships, scholarships for the children of the political sufferers, national merit scholarships, scholarships for the children of primary and secondary school teachers and national loan scholarships.
The value of scholarships varied from time to time and from one class to another. The value of some of the scholarships is as follows: (1) National Scholarships Rs.120 per month (2) State merit scholarship Rs.65, (3) State merit scholarship (junior) Rs.55, (4) Merit cum means scholarship Rs.55, (5) The scheduled castes and scheduled tribe scholarships Rs. 40.

The number of scholarships available under each category in 1969 was-

1. State merit scholarships, senior (250)
2. State merit scholarships, junior (193)
3. Merit-cum-means scholarships (1100)
4. Scholarships for the Scheduled tribes and Castes. (9526)
5. Poor Scholarships (255)
6. Scholarships for the children of Political Sufferers. (337)
7. National merit scholarships (171)
8. Scholarships for the children of primary and secondary school teachers. (12)

The number of scholarships and recipients has increased progressively as shown in Table VII.
The National Merit Scholarships scheme sponsored by the Government of India in 1961-62 was intended to help a large number of meritorious students who would not otherwise be in a position to continue their studies. It supplements the State merit scholarships in the post matric stage. But the main intention with which the national merit scholarships were instituted was to bring about the integration of the intelligentsia of the country. National scholarships were awarded to those whose parents' income does not exceed Rs. 500 per month. Otherwise a cash award of Rs.100 and a national merit certificate is given to the scholar in lieu of the scholarship. A similar scheme has been devised by the State Government also. Under this scheme State merit scholarships are awarded without taking into account the financial condition of the awardees.

Besides the national scholarships, the Government of India instituted national loan scholarships. The intention in introducing the scheme was to enable some more students who were not able to get any kind of financial assistance from any source to prosecute their studies. The terms of loan scholarships are very liberal. During the period 1963 to 1970, a huge sum of Rs.15,90,494 was
In Tripura, altogether 6,692 students were granted Rs.24,93,247 in various kinds of scholarships and other financial assistance in the year 1974-75 for higher education in Colleges and Universities. The total enrolment in the Colleges and the University centre was 8,007 and the percentage of students who received scholarship and financial aids was 80.3%.

In the Agricultural University in 1974-75 out of a total enrolment of 714, 577 or 80.8 percent were recipients of scholarships at the B.Sc. and M.Sc. levels from the State Govt. and other sources.

We have so far considered scholarships from the State Governments. After independence the Government of India awarded scholarships on a liberal scale to all students belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The University Grants Commission instituted a number of research scholarships and fellowships in the year 1957-58 to encourage good students to pursue higher education. The number and value of these scholarships and fellowships were progressively increased from Rs.100 and
Rs. 150 to Rs. 400 and Rs. 500 in 1977. The Commission has further instituted senior research fellowship for post doctoral research in the humanities, social sciences, science subjects, engineering and technology in various Universities. Some research scholarships are placed at the disposal of the Universities every year to meet their needs for promoting research. The number and amounts of scholarships and fellowships granted to the Gauhati University by the U.G.C. is shown in Table VII. Besides the U.G.C. has awarded special scholarship for students of hill tribes of North East India, for study of Arabic and Sanskrit.

Analysis:

The actual operation of the scheme reveals a number of defects. First, there is a tremendous delay in the award of scholarships and still greater delay in their payment. Five to nine months' time is taken for the disposal of the applications after the publication of the results. As a consequence a poor student, however meritorious he may be, will not be in a position to prosecute his studies unless some one advances some amount in the initial stages. Sometimes the merit scholarship is granted just before the completion of his studies in the post-graduate departments. In the case of
Research scholarship it takes at least one year to award the scholarships. Very often the person to whom the research scholarship is awarded does not avail of it because he is able to find some employment.

Second, the scholarship is not paid month after month. It is paid once or twice in a year. Therefore, the student receives at one time a large amount. Many students who have not had such large amounts at a time do not know what to do with it. Some of them have no plan for utilising the money. So they spend the amount on meaningless things. The scholarship system does not help the poor parents.

Third, although a huge amount was given as loan scholarship, no effort was made to recovery the amount. Fourth, there is no justification for the award of scholarships to the children of the political sufferers. The award of scholarships must be on the basis of financial condition of the parents and as rewards for merit. No other consideration should be the basis.

From the above it is clear that the scholarship system requires thorough reform. First, the award of scholarships must be on the basis of financial condition of the student. All other considerations are irrelevant.
Second, before the publication of the results of the Matriculation, P.U., Degree and Post-Graduate Examinations the Government should inform the public about the number of scholarships of different stages of education available to students who wish to prosecute further studies. The Government should prepare a priced publication about the scholarships. Scholarships should be reclassified into a suitable number of grades, post matric, post-graduate and Research Scholarships. The existing classification is unscientific. The value of the scholarship in each unit must be the same. The amount of scholarship should be reasonable on the basis of actual cost. There should be decentralization of the administration of scholarships. In other words the Government should place certain amount at the disposal of the College or University authorities for payment of scholarships every month. The Government should lay down certain principles to be observed by the University or college for the award of scholarships. The candidates should apply to the Principal of the College or the Registrar of the University for a scholarship. The Registrar and the Principal should be assisted by a committee for the scrutiny of the applications. The list of candidates selected will be published. If no objection is raised by any one within a period of 15 days orders sanctioning the scholarship will be issued and the list will be forwarded to
the DPI or DE for confirmation. The scholarship amount should be paid every month. As regards national loan scholarship the State Government should be held responsible for the repayment of the loan to the Government of India.