

**Govt. of Assam**  
**Parliamentary Affairs Department**

**Scheme for Exposure Visits to the Assam Legislative Assembly**

Hon'ble Finance Minister had presented the following new programme in his budget speech in the first Budget Session of the new Government during the July session, 2016:

“Coming to some initiatives, for the first of its kind in the State, I am introducing a Scheme from Parliamentary Affairs for exposure visits of Political Science students of our State to the Assam Legislative Assembly.....”

In pursuance of this, the following scheme under the Parliamentary Affairs Deptt. has been approved by the Cabinet.

At the initial stage, groups of students from High School upto College level would be arranged to visit the Assam Legislative Assembly during the sessions, in consultation with the Assam Legislative Assembly Sectt. The educational institutions may be identified, to the extent necessary, with input by the respective DCs/Inspectors of Schools, and the students will be selected by the respective Headmasters/Principals. The students may preferably be from the related subjects such as Political Science, Economics, etc. within the Arts/Humanities streams in colleges/higher secondary schools and social sciences in secondary schools. The groups of students would have both girls and boys (if the selected institution is co-educational). Each group will be accompanied and guided by one male and one female teacher to be deputed by the respective Headmasters/Principals.

The following methodology is to be taken into consideration for the selection of participants :

- a) The educational institutions to be considered shall be from amongst the High/Higher Secondary Schools and colleges within Assam.
- b) The selection of the educational institutions would be made, to the extent necessary, with input from the concerned DCs/Inspectors of Schools of the district.
- c) The invitations to participate shall be issued to the Heads of the educational institutions, with due approval of Hon'ble Minister, Parliamentary Affairs.
- d) Recommendations, if any, from Hon'ble CM, Ministers, Speaker, Dy. Speaker, MLAs, MPs, other dignitaries shall also be taken into consideration for extending invitation to the educational institutions.
- e) The students shall be from the specified subjects/streams of the invited educational institutions.
- f) The school students would be from the classes 10th to 12th. The college students would be from 1st year degree onwards.
- g) The total number of students in one batch of visit may not exceed 50.
- h) Each visiting batch would, to the extent feasible, consist of both boys and girls, accompanied by one male and one female teacher.
- i) The heads of the educational institutions would be requested to include the students showing good performance in academics in their respective subjects/streams/classes, as well as those with enthusiastic participation in relevant extracurricular activities such as debating competitions, student activities, mock parliament, etc. as the case may be, at those educational institutions.
- j) The student's participation for inclusion in a batch shall be voluntary on his/her

part. Therefore, the concerned heads of the educational institutions would be requested to select only the willing students.

The visiting group would report to the Assembly (main gate) by 8:30 am. The students will dress up in the uniform prescribed (if any) by their school/college and will carry their identity cards. They will be allowed seats in the Assembly visitors' gallery, for which the lists of participating students shall be provided to the Assembly Secretariat well ahead in time for the passes to be issued. The participants will be required to strictly observe the code of conduct prescribed for the visitors to the House. They wouldn't be permitted to take any mobile phones, purses (including ladies' purse), bags, water bottles, writing materials (paper, pen, etc.) into the gallery, but would be able to leave them outside with the designated House staff for safe keeping; yet, it would be advisable that they don't bring any valuables or expensive items along on the visit. The participants will be required to stay in the visitor's gallery throughout the duration of their visit to the House; however, they'd be allowed to go out of the gallery for brief breaks and to re-enter on the same pass. The heads of the participating institutions may apprise their students accordingly well in advance; the teachers accompanying the groups would ensure compliance.

The following business days in the House may possibly be more beneficial for the visits, although other business days may also be used :

- (a) Hon'ble Governor's address;
- (b) Debate on the motion of thanks on the Governor's address;
- (c) Budget presentation;
- (d) General discussion;

- (e) Discussion/voting on demands;
- (f) Passing of the budget;
- (g) Passing of bills; and
- (h) Private Members' business.

There may possibly be opportunities for the participants to interact with Hon'ble Speaker/CM/Ministers/MLAs/senior officials during the visit. These would be arranged in co-ordination with the Assembly Secretariat. Media coverage, photography, video recording for such events may be arranged through the DIPR, Assam.

Possibly, they may also be taken to visit other places of importance in and around greater Guwahati, as and when so decided. The probable venues may include Raj Bhawan, Planetarium, Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Shilpagram, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's Samadhi Kshetra, Regional Science Centre, State Museum, Jyoti Chitrabon, etc.

Lodging in Guwahati (furnished, with blanket, etc. as far as possible) for the visiting groups from outside Kamrup or nearby Districts may be arranged at the Kalakshetra/Shilpagram Complex, or at other suitable places, as per the need. Arrangements for boarding may possibly be made, as may be decided.

Transportation from and to the selected educational institutions, and in and around Guwahati city, shall be arranged by the ASTC. It would be preferable to avoid night-time travel as far as practicable.

The visiting students may be asked to submit a brief write-up (not exceeding one page per student) summarising their experience and feedback to their respective headmasters/principals, who would send a copy of the same to the Parliamentary Affairs

Deptt. Within a week of the return of the group.

The related expenditure shall be met by the Parliamentary Affairs Deptt. Out of the Budgetary provisions made for the Deptt.

It is envisaged that the scheme will help the students to know about the functioning of the State Legislative Assembly. They will get practical experience in visiting the Assembly session and have exposure to how it functions, how bills are presented and discussed, how debates take place and the bills are passed in the Assembly. They will get to see the Assembly Secretariat and shall gather better ideas by way of interaction with the people's representatives in the Legislative Assembly like Hon'ble Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, etc.

Further, it is also proposed that some respected senior citizens from the districts, such as retired teachers, headmasters, principals, freedom fighters, social workers, agriculturists, etc. may also be invited from time to time to watch the Assembly sessions, and the necessary arrangements may be made accordingly, as and when so decided.