

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding reduced budgetary allocation for scholarships-laid.

**SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA):** As per Government data, there has been reduced allocation for scholarships meant for to students from marginalized communities which is adversely impacting their ability to sustain their education for the last few years. This can be primarily attributed to the progressive reduction in the education budget this year which was the lowest in the last three years.

The board exam fees for SC and ST Students had been hiked from Rs.50 to Rs.1200 in August 2019. Institutions of higher education like AIIMS etc. have also increased their fees. The pre-matric and post-matric scholarship for SC and ST students show a consistent drop and stagnation respectively. Such fee hikes make education more inaccessible to these marginalized communities.

Thus, the entire educational sector needs a strong and expanding budgetary base which alone can ensure the improvement of standards of education and open doors of higher learning for students from marginalized communities.