

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to abolish the requirement of Income criteria in Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Tribes students- Laid.

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Several provisions have been incorporated in the Constitution for safeguarding and promoting the interests and rights of the Scheduled Tribes in various spheres so as to enable them to join the national mainstream. Article 46, Article 275, Articles 335 and Articles 342 cast a duty on the State to promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Tribes. The Government of India is taking several steps to promote the welfare of Students belonging to scheduled, tribe community through scholarship. However, the actual objective of these schemes to uplift the marginalized is defeated due to the presence of an income criteria of the family. In Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST students the family income limit is 2,50,000 per annum and for National Overseas Scholarship for ST students for studying abroad and National Scholarship Scheme, it is 6 lakh per annum. The mandatory requirement of a family income is against the constitutional guarantees provided to Scheduled Tribes and it is a form of exclusionary practise which denies benefits to the deserving candidates who have been deprived for several years. I request the Government to kindly abolish the requirement of income criteria in scholarship schemes for Scheduled Tribe students in order to provide them a level playing field.