

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Regarding withdrawl of pre-matric scholarship by the Government

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I wish to draw the kind attention of this House and the Government towards an injustice done to some lakhs of students who were dependent on their pre-matric scholarship for continuance of their education.

This pre-matric scholarship Scheme has now been withdrawn. The Government of India has not cited any specific reason for withdrawal of this Scheme. The Scheme was run by the Ministry of Social Justice and also by the Ministry of Tribal Welfare. So, it can be well-imagined how important this Scheme was. Lakhs of students were dependent on this scholarship for their education. This act of the Government is not just cruelty, but something more than that. Everything was going on nicely. Applications were invited; they were scrutinised and they were waiting for the order. Unfortunately, one fine morning, the Government of India decided to withdraw the pre-matric scholarship for students from standard I to standard VIII. They all belong to poor families and were completely dependent on this scholarship. This scholarship was a very important motivation for these students. It was a great relief for them.

I would like to ask the Government what they will gain by withdrawing this scholarship given to the poor students. What benefit will accrue to the Government by withdrawing this facility? It will only add to the hardship of these poor students. It is a humanitarian issue. I would like to humbly request the Government not to proceed with this decision and to restore this and also clear the backlog dues as payable to these students. These are my humble submissions.

Thank you.