

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:354

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004

REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE OF WELFARE SCHEMES FOR SCs/OBCs

Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of various schemes running for the welfare of SCs and OBCs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith changes needed for their better implementation;
- (c) whether the Government has taken notice of any lapse by State Governments/UT administrations in utilization of funds allocated by the Union Government for several schemes for the welfare of SCs and OBCs in the country during the last three years till date;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken, State-wise; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Union Government to monitor the proper utilization of funds by State Governments/UT administrations?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN PART (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.-354 FOR ANSWER ON 19.8.2004 ASKED BY SHRI N.N.KRISHNADAS AND SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN, MPs.

(a) & (b) : The various schemes meant for the welfare of SCs and OBCs are regularly reviewed in consultation with State Governments, UT Administrations etc. Based on the review of the schemes necessary remedial measures including modification of the scheme wherever necessary are taken. Some of the important changes made in various schemes are as follows:

Post Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Castes:

- (a) Rates of maintenance allowance and other allowance have been enhanced.
- (b) Income ceiling for eligibility has been increased to widen the coverage.
Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations:
- (c) Rates of scholarship have been increased.
- (d) The amount of annual ad-hoc grant admissible under the scheme has been enhanced.

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme:

- (e) Rates of maintenance allowance and other allowance have been enhanced.
- (f) Income ceiling for eligibility has been increased to widen the coverage.

(c) & (d) : No case of lapse of utilization of funds by the State Government /UT Administration has come to notice.

(e) : State Governments/UT Administrations are required to furnish Quarterly Progress Reports under various schemes. Generally, Central assistance is released on receipt of utilization certificates for the previous grants. Officers of the Ministry visit States/UTs from time to time to monitor implementation of the schemes.