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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2010-2011)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

**SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR SCHEDULED
CASTES/OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES**

ELEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

November, 2010/Agrahayana, 1932 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

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CASTES/OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 30.11.2010

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 30.11.2010



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

November, 2010/ Agrahayana, 1932 (Saka)
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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2009-2010)**

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

- *2. Shri T.R. Baalu
- **3. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
4. Shri E.T. Mohamed Basheer
5. Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty
6. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
7. Smt. Rama Devi
8. Shri R. Dhruvanarayana
9. Shri Premchand Guddu
10. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
11. Shri Baliram Jadhav
12. Dr. Manda Jagannath
13. Shri Mohan Jena
14. Shri Baliram Kashyap
15. Shri Basori Singh Masram
16. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
- ***17. Shri Yashvir Singh
18. Dr. N. Sivaprasad
19. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
20. Shri Manohar Tirkey
21. Vacant
22. Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

- ****23. Shri Suryakantbhai Acharya
- #24. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
25. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
26. Shri Narayan Singh Kesari
27. Shri Mahmood A. Madani
28. Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
- ##29. Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee
30. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
- ###31. Shri Nand Kishore Yadav

*Shri T.R. Baalu nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 11.1.2010.

**Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal ceased to be a Member of Committee w.e.f. 23.9.2009.

***Shri Yashvir Singh ceased to be a Member of Committee w.e.f. 13.10.2009.

****Shri Suryakantbhai Acharya expired on 21.12.2009.

#Smt. Jharna Das Baidya nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 26.4.2010.

##Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee ceased to be a Member of Committee consequent upon his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 2.4.2010.

Shri Nand Kishore Yadav ceased to be a Member of Committee consequent upon his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 4.7.2010.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2010-2011)**

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

- 2 Shri T.R. Baalu
- 3 Shri E.T. Mohamed Basheer
- 4 Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty
- 5 Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
- 6 Smt. Rama Devi
- 7 Shri R. Dhruvanarayana
- 8 Shri Premchand Guddu
- 9 Shri Baliram Jadhav
- 10 Dr. Manda Jagannath
- 11 Shri Mohan Jena
- 12 Shri Baliram Kashyap
- 13 Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
- 14 Shri Basori Singh Masram
- 15 Shri Kamlesh Paswan
- 16 Dr. Niramalli Sivaprasad
- 17 Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
- 18 Shri Manohar Tirkey
- #19 Shri Subhash Bapurao Wankhede
- 20 Vacant
- 21 Vacant

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

- 22 Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
- 23 Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
- 24 Shri Narayan Singh Kesari
- ##25 Shri Mahmood A. Madani
- *26 Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi
- 27 Dr. Ram Dayal Munda
- 28 Shri Baishnab Parida
- 29 Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
- 30 Shri Shivpratap Singh
- 31 Shri Nandi Yelliah

Shri Subhash Bapurao Wankhede nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 27.9.2010

Shri Mahmood A. Madani nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 21.9.2010

* Shri Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi nominated to the Committee w.e.f. 21.9.2010

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri. V.R. Ramesh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Anita Jain | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Mishra | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Shri Yash Pal Sharma | - | Senior Executive Assistant |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2010-2011) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Eleventh Report on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes/Other Backward Classes".

2. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 8th January, 2010 and 30th August, 2010.

3. Written memoranda containing suggestions/views/critical comments were invited from individuals/institutions/organizations interested in the subject matter. The Committee also heard the views/suggestions of individuals/institutions/organizations on the subject on 25th May, 2010.

4. The Committee undertook on the spot study visit to Mysore and interacted with District Collector and beneficiaries regarding implementation of Scholarship Schemes for the SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities . The Committee were greatly benefitted from the deliberations during their study visit and the views/suggestions expressed by various individuals/associations on the subject. The Committee express their gratitude to all of them who furnished memoranda or tendered evidence before the Committee.

5. The Committee also wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for placing before them the detailed written notes on the subject and for furnishing whatever information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the subject.

6. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 25.11.2010

7. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in Appendix to the Report.

NEW DELHI;

25th November, 2010
4 Agrahayana, 1932 (Saka)

DARA SINGH CHAUHAN
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

REPORT

Scholarship Schemes: An Overview

1.1 An important aspect of improving the social and economic status of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes is their educational empowerment by improving their access to education and by providing them with scholarships. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing various scholarship schemes for the educational welfare of SCs and OBCs. These schemes are as under:

- (i) Pre-matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in unclean occupations.
- (ii) Post-matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students.
- (iii) Top Class Education for Scheduled Caste students.
- (iv) National Overseas Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste students.
- (v) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships for SC students.
- (vi) Pre-matric Scholarship for OBC students.
- (vii) Post-matric Scholarship for OBC students.

Allocation for Scholarship Schemes

1.2 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the scheme-wise allocations proposed by the Ministry and allocations approved by the Planning Commission for the scholarship schemes for SCs and OBCs for the years 2006-07-2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Allocations Proposed and Approved during the Years							
		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Proposed	Approved	Proposed	Approved	Proposed	Approved	Proposed	Approved
Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Caste Students									
1.	Post Matric Scholarship	680.00	450.00	700.00	625.00	550.00	750.00	1526.00	750.00
2.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those engaged in unclean occupation	16.00	16.00	25.00	25.00	68.00	54.00	80.00	80.00
3.	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship	35.13	35.13	88.00	88.00	75.00	75.00	90.00	80.00
4.	National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	1.40	1.40	2.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	5.00
5.	Top Class Education	5.00	5.00	40.00	16.00	30.00	20.00	23.00	20.00
								1725.00	935.00
Scholarship Schemes for OBC Students									
1.	Post Matric Scholarship for OBC Students	34.99	34.99	100.00	100.00	230.00	134.00	395.00	135.00
2.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students	25.00	25.00	40.00	25.00	34.00	30.00	99.00	30.00
								494.00	165.00

1.3 It is seen from above that for the various Scholarship Schemes during 2009-10 against proposed allocation of Rs. 1725 crore & 494 crore for SCs and OBCs students, only Rs. 935 crore & 165 crore were approved by Planning Commission.

1.4 On being enquired about the specific efforts being made to pursue the case with the Planning Commission for making the requisite allocation, the Ministry in their written reply stated that the plan budget allocation of this Ministry has been substantially enhanced in 2010-11 to a level of Rs.4500 crores from Rs. 2500 crore in 2009-10. Allocation for various scholarship schemes during the current financial year has also been increased as follows :-

(Rs in Crores)		
S.No:	Name of The Scheme for SC Children	Amount Allocated During 2010-11
1	Post Matric Scholarship	1700.00
2	Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those engaged in unclean occupation	80.00
3	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SCs	160.00
4	National Overseas Scholarship for SCs	6.00
5	Top Class Education	25.00
6	Post Matric Scholarship for OBC Students	350.00
7	Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students	50.00
		2381.00

Revision of Scholarship Rates

1.5 On the issue of revision of various scholarship schemes, the Committee have been informed that the nature of revision is under consideration. Post-matric scholarship for SCs was revised from April, 2003, while the Pre-matric scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations was revised in April, 2008. However, Pre/Post Matric scholarship for OBCs have not been revised since their inception.

On being enquired about the inordinate delay in effecting revision, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during the oral evidence informed that the Post-matric Scholarship for SCs is expected to be revised in the next 2 to 3 months and Post-matric Scholarship for OBCs by the end of the year. The Ministry in their written reply stated that while revising scholarship rates, Consumer Price Index would be taken into consideration.

Comparative rates of scholarship Schemes and income ceilings

1.6 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing comparative scholarship rates and income ceilings for the Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship schemes for SC, OBC, ST and Minorities as under:-

Post Matric Scholarship for SCs			Post Matric Scholarship for STs			Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs			Post Matric Scholarship for Minorities		
The rate of maintenance allowance (per month) are as under:			The rate of maintenance allowance (per month) are as under:			The rate of maintenance allowance (per month) are as under:			Item	Hosteller *	Day scholar
Group	Hostellers	Day Scholars	Group	Hostellers	Day Scholars	Group	Hostellers	Day Scholars	Admission and tuition fee for classes XI and XII.	Actual subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.7,000 p.a.	Actual subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.7,000 p.a.
Group I	740	330	Group I	740	330	Group A	425	190	Admission and course/tuition fee for technical and vocational courses of XI and XII level. (Includes fees/charges for raw materials, etc.)	Actual subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.10,000 p.a.	Actual subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.10,000 p.a.
Group II	510	330	Group II	510	330	Group B	290	190	Admission and tuition fee for under-graduate, post graduate.	Actual subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.3,000 p.a.	Actual subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.3,000 p.a.
Group III	355	185	Group III	355	185	Group C	290	190	Maintenance allowance for 10 months only in an academic year (Includes expenses for study material, etc.)	Rs.235 p.m.	Rs.140 p.m.
Group IV	235	140	Group IV	235	140	Group D	230	120	(i) Classes XI and XII including technical and vocational courses of this level.		
						Group E	150	90	(ii) Courses other than technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post graduate level	Rs.355 p.m.	Rs.185 p.m.
									(iii) M. Phil and Ph.D.	(For those researchers who are not awarded any fellowship by university or any other authority)	Rs.510 p.m. Rs.330 p.m.

Income Ceiling			
Rs 1,00,000/- p.a	Rs 1,45,000/- p.a	Rs 44,500/- p.a.	Rs 2,00,000/- p.a.
Number of Scholarships			
No Cap	No Cap	No Cap	200,000

Pre Matric Scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations #	Pre Matric scholarship for OBC students.	Pre Matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to Minorities communities.			
Rates of scholarships are as under:	Rates of scholarship are as under:	Item	Hostellers *	Day	Scholars
<u>I. Hostellers:</u>	<u>I. Hostellers:</u>	1	Admission fee from class VI to X	Rs.500/-p.a. subject to actuals.	Rs.500/- p.a. subject to actuals.
Class III – X - Rs. 700/- per month.	Class III to VIII - Rs. 200/- per month for 10 months.	2	Tuition fee from class VI to X	Rs.350/- p.m. subject to actuals.	Rs.350/- p.m. subject to actuals.
<u>II. Day Scholars:</u>	<u>II. Day Scholars:</u>	3		Maintenance allowance will be payable for a period not exceeding 10 months in an academic year.	
Class I – X - Rs. 110/- per month.	Class I to V - Rs. 25/- per month for 10 months.		Class I to V	Nil	Rs. 100/- p.m.
Ad-Hoc grant: An ad-hoc grant of Rs. 1000/- per student p.a. for hostellers and Rs.750/- per student p.a. for day scholars.	Class VI to VIII - Rs. 40/- per month for 10 months.		Class VI to X	Rs. 600/- p.m. subject to actuals.	Rs. 100/-p.m.
	Class IX to X - Rs. 50/- per month for 10 months.				
	Ad-Hoc grant: An ad-hoc grant of Rs. 500/- per student per annum to all students.				
		*Hostellers include students who are staying in hostel of the school/institute concerned or those provided by the State Government/Union Territory Administration concerned.			

The scheme is occupation based, but includes SC students also.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is not implementing any Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme for tribal students.

1.7 The Committee observed that there are different scholarship rates for scholarship scheme for SCs, and OBCs. The income ceiling also varies from scheme to scheme and is also different.

In this connection, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, submitted before the Committee that there are three Ministries looking for these groups. Ministries send their proposals for revision to Cabinet and there is no coordinated view. He opined the setting up of umbrella authority which may be entrusted with the task of taking up revision of scholarship schemes for the target groups together.

1.8 On being asked whether is there any proposal to have uniform rates of scholarship and income ceiling for SCs and OBCs, both categories falling under the same Ministry, the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, during evidence stated as under :-

“Sir, about uniform rates of scholarships for SCs and OBCs, in principle this would appear reasonable. The fact of the matter is that two schemes have been revised at two different points of time and it has not been possible to revise the OBC scheme so far. Under that scheme whatever rates are prevailing are prevailing since 1998. Under the SC scheme, it has been revised from 1.4.2003. It is also the Government’s conscious effort to give preferential treatment to Scheduled Castes because they are the ones who have been more oppressed and require greater help. But having said that, in principle I agree and whenever it is possible in whatever phased manner, equalization should come about”.

Drop out rates amongst SC/OBC students

1.9 When asked to furnish the dropout rate of SC/OBC students as compared with general students, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that according to Selected Educational Statistics 2006-07, published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the dropout rates for all categories of students as well as for scheduled castes students (in per cent) during 2004-05 to 2006-07 for classes’ I-V, I-VIII and I-X is given below:-

Year	Primary (I-V)		Elementary (I-VIII)		Secondary (I-X)	
	All categories	SCs	All categories	SCs	All categories	SCs
2004-05	29.00	34.2	50.84	57.3	61.92	71.3
2005-06	25.67	32.86	48.80	55.17	61.62	70.57
2006-07	25.60	35.91	45.90	53.05	59.88	69.01

Note: Data on dropout rates for OBC students is not collected by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

Proposal for Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs.

1.10 The Committee have been informed that at present the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment does not have a Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students in general, except for the limited category of children of those engaged in “unclean” occupations.

1.11 Adding further the Secretary during evidence stated as under:

“The dropout rate which you were referring to is at pre-matric stage – Classes I to X, whereas our main scholarships are at the post-matric stage. In the last two years, we have made efforts to introduce a new pre-matric scholarship scheme for all SC students. At the moment, the pre-matric scholarship is confined to only children of families which are engaged in unclean occupations. That is a small number. It is a much larger number of Scheduled Caste students who have to be given pre-matric scholarships.

We had sent a proposal for the Planning Commission’s approval in-principle. The Planning Commission conveyed its approval in-principle.

But after that, when we actually circulated the draft EFC note, they said that this has a huge financial implication of about Rs. 7,000 crore per annum. They said: “Your present 11th plan outlay does not allow that. So, first get your plan allocation increased.” Since then, we have been making strenuous efforts to get our allocation increased. This year, we with the very intensive efforts of our Hon. Minister, we have managed to get 80 percent increase in our plan allocation but even that is sufficient basically only to revise our two main post-matric scholarship schemes– one for the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Classes. But it would be our top priority in the 12th Five Year Plan to include the pre-matric scholarship for all Scheduled Caste students. Once we do that, we certainly hope that would have a salutary effect on the dropout rate for the Scheduled Castes. Having said that, I would also like to put it in perspective that the dropout rate for the Scheduled Caste is high, but the dropout rate for the country as a whole is also not low. It is basically 10 percentage point increase for SC compared to the over all figure. If you were to see the comparative statement of the dropout rates overall and the dropout rate for the Scheduled

Castes, the dropout rate for overall is 60 percent for classes I to X; and the dropout rate for the Scheduled Caste is 70 percent. It should neither be 60 percent nor 70 percent.”

Scholarship Schemes by State Governments

1.12 The State Governments/UTs are implementing the following Centrally sponsored scholarship schemes for SC & OBC students:-

1. Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to the Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and OBC students for studies in India;
2. Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship for OBC Students
3. Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation;

Besides above, 11 States are implementing their own Pre-matric scholarship schemes for SCs. The details of these schemes are given at **Annexure I.**

Scholarships for Persons with Disabilities

1.13 The Committee enquired about the details of various scholarship schemes being implemented for persons with disabilities, the Ministry in their written reply stated that The Ministry has been implementing a Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities from a fund of the Ministry called the 'National Fund for People with Disabilities'. The salient features of the scheme are:-

- (i) Under the Scholarship Scheme, financial assistance is given to Indian students with at least 40% disabilities certified as per under the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 for pursuing post-Matric/Post-Secondary technical and professional courses including Ph.D & M.Phil from recognized institutions. However, to students with disabilities of Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, and Profound or Severe Hearing Impairment, scholarships are awarded for pursuing secondary level courses also.
- (ii) Monthly family income (including income of the parent/guardian) of the beneficiary should not be more than Rs. 15,000/-.

- (iii) Scholarship of (a) Rs.1000/-p.m. for hostellers and Rs.700/- p.m. for day scholars studying in professional courses at graduation and above level, and (b) Rs.700/- p.m. for hostellers and Rs.400/- p.m. for day scholars pursuing Diploma/certificate level professional courses and in respect of students with Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities and Profound or Severe Hearing Impairment, for pursuing general/technical/vocational courses after Class-VIII. Course fee is reimbursed up to a ceiling of Rs.10,000/- per year.
- (iv) Up to five hundred Scholarships are given annually through institutions in which students are pursuing studies/courses. Scholarship will be given to different categories of disabled students as under:

S. No.	Disability	Male Students	Female Students
1	Students with orthopedic disability	58 Awards	58 Awards
2	Students with blindness or low vision	58 Awards	58 Awards
3	Students with hearing disability	58 Awards	58 Awards
4	Students with Cerebral palsy, Mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, Profound or Severe Hearing Impairment	76 Awards	76 Awards
	Total	250	250

1.14 When asked about the expenditure incurred on the scheme during the last three years, the Committee have been informed that for the financial year 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 an amount of Rs.48.07 lakh, Rs.66.30 lakh and Rs.35.04 lakh respectively has been released under the scheme.

Disbursement of scholarship amount

1.15 During interaction with the non-official witnesses, it was brought to the notice of the Committee that Scholarships are not being timely disbursed to the students.

1.16 The Committee enquired the reasons for delay in disbursement of scholarships the Secretary during evidence stated as under:-

“I could not agree more with the Hon. Member that delay in payment of scholarship virtually defeats the purpose of the scholarship scheme and every effort has to be made to make sure that the scholarship is paid in a regular and timely manner. It is an absolutely indispensable condition and there can be no dispute on that whatsoever.”

“I would also like to submit that if any State Government says that it is because of delay in release of Central assistance that they are not able to pay their students on time, especially under the Scheduled Caste Scholarship scheme, then that State Government is not telling the truth at all. The fact of the matter today is that, for example, under our flagship scheme, which is the post-matric scholarship scheme, about 60 per cent of the total money comes from the State Government itself by way of its committed liability. To take last year's figure, the State Governments, committed liability was of the order of Rs. 1300 crore and we spent around another Rs. 1050 crore. So, more than 55-60 per cent of the money, in any case, has to be spent by the State Government. To say that because we have not got the remaining 40 per cent and, therefore we will not even spend our own 60 per cent is a complete travesty.”

1.17 The Committee observed that presently scholarships are awarded for ten months only. In this context, the Committee enquired whether there is any proposal to disburse scholarships for 12 months instead of 10 months, the Ministry in their written submission stated as under:-

“According to the guidelines of the Schemes of post-matric scholarship s and OBC
1st

) In case of renewal of scholarships awarded in the previous years, maintenance allowance will be paid from the month following the month up to which scholarship was paid in the previous year, if the course of the study is continuous. Therefore, under the schemes, payment of maintenance allowance for 12 months is already permissible. However, as the amount paid as maintenance allowance under the schemes during the five year plan period becomes the committed liability of the respective states in the first year of the next Five Year Plan, some states are making payments towards the maintenance allowance for 10 months only with a view to reduce their burden of committed liability after the end of the Five Year Plan.”

E-payment system for Scholarship Schemes

1.18 In order to ensure timely payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries under the pre and post-matric scholarship scheme, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has recently written to all the State Governments to develop a proper management system for implementing various scholarship schemes.

Accordingly, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh have implemented computer based on-line processing, sanction and disbursement of Post-matric scholarship to SC & OBC students through bank.

1.19 On being asked the steps taken to persuade all States to adopt on-line system to grant scholarships, the Ministry stated that The State Governments/UT Administrations were requested in August, 2009 at the level of Chief Secretaries to issue instructions to all concerned so that payment through Post Office/Bank accounts is universalized at the earliest and they were also requested to send the information on action taken to the Ministry by 7th September. Subsequently, the defaulting States/UTs were further reminded in this regard in October, 2009 and were also informed about the initiatives taken by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for implementing the computer based on line processing, sanction and disbursal of Post-metric scholarships to SC students through banks.

1.20 In response to another query the Ministry in their written reply further stated as under:-

“The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala have already started online processing/disbursement of scholarship amount under the Post-matric scholarship scheme for SC students. Ministry has also discussed the matter with NIC and requested them to develop suitable e-governance module

for implementation of the scheme at all 4 critical levels- central government, state government, district administration and educational institutions”.

Opening of bank accounts

1.21 The Ministry has advised State Governments to make payment of scholarship through Post Office/Bank. They have been directed that accounts should be opened in Post-Offices/Banks for the beneficiaries immediately.

1.22 When asked how many States are making payment through Post Office/Bank, the Ministry have furnished a statement which is in **Annexure II**.

1.23 The Committee enquired about the steps taken to ensure that other States also implement this system, the Ministry submitted that which yet to implement the system are being repeatedly reminded

Charging of Tuition fees by Private Institutions at the time of admission

1.24 During the evidence the Committee discussed the issue of charging of tuition fees by private institutions and pointed out that in private institutions, the tuition fee is charged from SC/OBC candidates at the time of admission which is refunded to the candidates after the same is received from the concerned State Government resulting in a lot of hardships to the students.

1.25 In this regard the Committee desired to know whether the Government propose to direct the private/self financed Colleges/Institutes to claim the tuition fees from the concerned State Government and not from the students, the Ministry stated that no such proposal is under consideration at present.

During the course of evidence, the Secretary informed that in Haryana private institutions have been asked not to charge fees from SC students and claim the same from State Government and it has given good results. He assured that the Ministry will ask other States also to follow the example of Haryana.

Income Certificate as a precondition for sanction of Scholarship

1.26 During meeting with the non-official witnesses, it was brought to the notice of the Committee that students availing scholarships are required to submit income certificates every year which takes a lot of time and money.

It was also brought to the notice of the Committee that students belonging to reserved categories face a lot of difficulties to obtain the caste certificate in their respective States and it becomes all the more difficult when it comes to migrant families.

1.27 On being asked to state the Government's rule in this regard, wherein the Ministry in their written submission stated under the PMS schemes for SC and OBC students, income certificate is required to be taken only once i.e. at the time of the beginning of the course.

1.28 When asked whether the same certificate is valid even if the duration of the course is more than one year, the Ministry stated that the Income certificate taken at the time of admission to courses which are continuing for more than one year is valid during subsequent years.

1.29 The Committee enquired whether the Union Government propose to instruct the State Governments to implement the same rule so that this certificate is submitted on one time basis at the time of admission itself, the Ministry stated that the provision is already there in guidelines for the "Post-Matric Scholarship schemes for SC and OBC students" and no further instructions to State Governments/UTs are proposed to be issued at present.

Sanction of Study Loans by Banks

1.30 The Committee enquired whether the Government propose to ensure that banks should come forward to extend financial assistance to the SC students for studying abroad without insisting upon collateral security, the Ministry stated that there is no such proposal under consideration.

1.31 On being asked whether is there any proposal to extend study loan by Scheduled Caste Finance Corporation, the Committee have been informed that National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) has introduced Educational Loan Scheme for SC students w.e.f. 1.4.2009, whose details are given in **Annexure-III**.

Grievance Cell

1.32 The Committee observed that in view of large number of grievances of SCs, OBCs in payment of scholarships, whether the States/UTs asked to set up Grievance Cell/Helpline, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that no directions in this regard have been issued by this Ministry.

Awareness Programmes

1.33 The Committee enquired whether adequate number of awareness camps were organized by the Ministry for generating awareness about these schemes, the Ministry in their written reply stated that Ministry's weekly radio programme "SANWARTI JAYEN JEEVAN KI RAHEYEN" produced and broadcast in Hindi and 17 Regional languages through 30 Vividhi Bharti, 71 Primary channels, 15 Primary Channels of North East and F.M. Stations of All India Radio. Programmes on various Schemes of

the Ministry were produced and broadcast in Radio programme. Information regarding these schemes is also available on the website of the Ministry.

1.34 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry have any awareness programme to educate the parents of the children or to leave it to the State Governments. In this regard, the Secretary, during evidence stated as under:-

“At the beginning of each academic session, it is the Department of Education which launches an enrolment drive specially to bring in those children who are out of schools and also those children belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or other very poor families.

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We basically request the State Governments to make it known right up to the school level and we tell them that any child who comes from any of this background, his application should necessarily be obtained and scholarship sanctioned.

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Sir, definitely with this year's jump in our allocation, we are able to increase our allocation on publicity. Last year it was Rs. 10 crore and it was a small amount. This year, we have been able to increase it to Rs. 25 crore.”

Monitoring of the Scholarship Schemes

1.35 The Ministry in the background note stated that performance of its scholarship schemes is monitored through the quarterly/annual progress reports furnished by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

1.36 The Committee enquired whether Progress reports are being received regularly from State Governments/UT Administrations, the Committee have been informed that the Ministry releases funds to the States/UTs only on receipt of physical progress report and Utilization Certificate of the funds released during previous years.

1.37 The Committee have been informed that during the field visits of Officers of this Ministry to States/UTs, discussions are held in order to identify constraints and to take corrective measures.

1.38 When asked how many visits conducted by the officials of the Ministry during the last three years, year-wise, scholarship scheme-wise, the Ministry in their written submission stated as under:-

“The orders for designating Divisional Heads as Nodal Officers for States/UTs to undertake field visits for on the spot study for implementation of various schemes were issued on 29.9.2009. Due to pre occupation of officers thereafter with the winter and Budget Sessions of Parliament and in processing of the proposals from the States/UTs and other implementing agencies, they were not been able to make field visits on a significant scale so far. However, from 2010-11, they will be asked to make the minimum prescribed visits in their allocated States/UTs”.

1.39 To address the specific problems being faced by the North-Eastern States the Ministry has held meetings with Secretaries/senior officers of the State Governments of the region to review the implementation of the scholarship schemes of the Ministry and to ensure optimum utilization of funds.

1.40 When enquired what type of problems being faced by the North Eastern States in implementation of the scholarship schemes, give details scheme-wise, the Ministry stated that no specific problem was reported regarding the implementation of scholarship scheme in the meeting with N.E. States. However, the need to ensure optimum utilisation of funds allocated to N.E. States has been stressed in the meeting by this Ministry.

1.41 On being asked to state the steps taken by the Ministry to strengthen the monitoring of the scholarship schemes at village, block and District levels, the Ministry stated that the Ministry implements Scholarship schemes through the State Governments/UT Administrations. Therefore, the primary responsibility for monitoring

the scheme at village, block and district levels vests with the State Governments. States/UTs have also been advised to strengthen their monitoring mechanism. However, the Ministry also monitors the implementation and progress of the schemes on periodical basis in the following ways : -

- (i) Financial and physical performance is reviewed by the Secretary (SJ&E) to ensure that the allocations provided for the schemes of the Ministry are fully utilized.
- (ii) Ministry organizes the Annual Conference of State Welfare Secretaries wherein, inter alia, all the schemes of the Ministry are reviewed.
- (iii) The Ministry also sponsors evaluation studies from time to time through independent evaluation agencies to assess the impact of the schemes on the target groups.
- (iv) Performance Management Division (PMD) of Cabinet Secretariat has developed a Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Government Ministries/Departments. Ministry has prepared a Results-Framework Document under which all the major schemes of the Ministry are included for monitoring by the High Powered Committee constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat.

1.42 During evidence the Committee enquired about the monitoring of Mid- Day Meal Scheme wherein the Secretary, responded as under :-

“It is not with us; it is with the Ministry of HRD.”

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“Whenever it comes to our notice that there has been discrimination vis-à-vis children of the Scheduled Castes, in any particular State in regard to the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal, we always take it up.”

1.43 The Committee note that the budgetary allocations for scholarship schemes for SCs and for OBCs students which was only Rs. 935 crores and Rs. 165 crores respectively during 2009-2010 was significantly enhanced to Rs. 1971 crores and Rs. 400 crores in the budget 2010-2011. The Committee have been given to understand that the Ministry would utilize increased allocation on the long pending issue of revision of scholarship rates under the post matric scholarship scheme for SCs and OBCs. The Committee welcome the increase of allocation of funds to the Ministry and hope this increase would stand them in good stead when the matter of revision of scholarship rates and income ceiling is taken up in the right earnest. However, looking at the critical importance of the scholarship schemes in improving the access of SCs/OBCs students to education, the Committee desire that the other scholarship schemes which have combined allocations of only Rs. 681 crore during 2010-2011 should also be reviewed and revised to improve their rates and coverage so that more and more students from these disadvantaged sections are able to benefit from these schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to pursue with well formulated proposals with the Government for increased allocations for other scholarship schemes as well so that they can also be suitably revised with increased coverage to bring in more SCs and OBCs students within the ambit of various scholarship schemes.

1.44 The Committee are unhappy to note that there is a substantial delay in the revision of post matric scholarship schemes for SCs/OBCs which was last

revised during 2003. On the status of the revision of the scholarship schemes, the Committee have been informed that the revision is under consideration and is proposed to be effected by the end of the year. Keeping in view the considerable price hike, the Committee feel that there is an urgent need to increase the rates as per the present consumer price Index. Also with considerable increase in salaries of Government employees consequent to 6th Pay Commission Report and with no increase in income ceiling many deserving SC students have been left out of the ambit of scholarship scheme. Since these scholarship schemes empower and sustain the interest of SC/OBC students towards formal education, the revision should be all-encompassing taking into account every parameter of the scheme *viz.* income criteria, rates of scholarship, norms for award of scholarship, the time and the mode of payment, etc. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to expedite the process of revising the schemes so that SC/OBC students are able to get enhanced rates in the current academic year itself. The Committee further desire that the scholarship rates be linked with the consumer price index and reviewed at the beginning of each academic year so that in the event of increase in price index, the scholarship rates are suitably increased.

1.45 The Committee observe that there are different rates of scholarships as well as income ceiling limits for SCs/OBCs/STs and minorities. The Committee have been informed that since these scholarship schemes are being run by three different Ministries, there is no coordinated view while effecting revisions under different schemes. The Committee are of the view that since all these schemes relate to disadvantaged sections of the society and therefore, it is desirable to

have some uniformity in the various scholarship schemes. In this connection, the Secretary during evidence opined that there should be an umbrella authority to be named 'National Scholarship Authority' which can take a coordinated view of the income ceiling limit, rates, etc. in the various scholarship schemes. The Committee while concurring with the above, desire the Government to consider setting up such an Authority under the Planning Commission/Ministry of HRD to go into the entire gamut of various scholarship schemes and take a well considered and coordinated view for determining scholarship rates, coverage etc. of all scholarship schemes pertaining to SCs/OBCs/STs and Minorities.

1.46 The Committee observe that the Ministry has been implementing a Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities from a fund of the Ministry called the 'National Fund for People with Disabilities'. The Committee also observe that up to five hundred Scholarships 250 each for male and female students are given annually through institutions in which students are pursuing studies/courses and amount i.e. Rs. 48.07 lakh during 2007-08, Rs. 66.30 lakh during 2008-09 and Rs. 35.04 lakh during 2009-10 was released for the purpose. The Committee feel that keeping in view the large number of people suffering from different types of disabilities, these awards and funds are not sufficient. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that with effect from next financial year, awards and funds under this category of scholarship may be increased suitably.

1.47 The Committee note that according to selected Educational statistics 2006-07, published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the dropout rate for SCs students at pre-matric stage is as high as 70% and when compared to all

categories students it is higher by a significant 10%. The Committee further note that pre-matric scholarship scheme for SC students which can be instrumental into reducing the drop out rate is limited only to students of parents engaged in unclean occupations. The Ministry had sent a proposal for Planning Commission's approval for introducing pre-matric scholarship for all SC students and though the Planning Commission has conveyed its approval in principle, the Ministry has not been able to get the required allocation for the scheme. The Committee wish to emphasize that scholarships for poor SC students at pre-matric stage will greatly motivate and facilitate them to attend schools in large numbers and also reduce the dropout rates. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to make concerted efforts to get requisite allocation for introduction of the pre-matric scholarship scheme for all SC students during the next financial year so that the scheme is fully implemented at the earliest or in the beginning of 12th plan.

1.48 The Committee further observe that some State Governments are implementing scholarship schemes for SC students at pre-matric level from their own budgetary resources which has helped in bringing down the drop out rates. While appreciating efforts of these State Governments, the Committee desire the Government to give suitable incentive to all States to implement Pre-matric scholarship schemes at their own levels till the implementation of such scheme at Central level.

1.49 The Committee note that the Ministry has advised State Governments to make payments of scholarships through Post Office/Bank. The Committee are, however, unhappy to note that so far only in six States namely Andhra Pradesh,

Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh scholarship is fully paid through Post Office/Bank Account while in the rest of States it has not been implemented at all or partially implemented and the payment is made through the Principals and Head Masters who further distribute scholarships to the students which results in delays. The Committee desire that the Ministry should sensitise the States about the same and vigorously pursue the opening of bank accounts of all the beneficiaries within a definite time frame.

1.50 During interaction with non-officials witnesses, the Committee found that there is a considerable delay in sanction and disbursement of scholarships. On this issue, the Secretary impressed upon the Committee during evidence that the delay in payment of scholarship is not due to delay in release of Central assistance. On the contrary, the delay is caused by the State Governments which do not the spend the money falling under their Committed liability on time. The Committee are of the strong view that delay in payment of scholarships virtually defeats the very purpose for which the same has been introduced. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take up the matter of timely payment of scholarships with State Governments at Chief Secretary level. The Committee also recommend that scholarships should be paid Quarterly positively beginning with first installment immediately after the admission. The Committee may be apprised of the concrete measures taken by the Department in this direction and response of the States.

1.51 The Committee have been further informed that some State Governments are making payments towards maintenance allowance under the scholarship schemes for only 10 months instead of 12 months with a view to reduce their

burden of committed liability. Taking a serious view on that, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take up the matter with State Governments at the Chief Secretary level and ensure that full scholarship amount is paid to students for 12 months.

1.52 The Committee find that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh have implemented computer based online processing, sanction and disbursement of Post-matric scholarship to SC & OBC students through bank. However, the majority of States are yet to implement computer based online processing, sanction and disbursement. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry has asked NIC to develop suitable e-governance module for implementation of the scholarship scheme at all 4 critical levels – Central Government, State Government, district administration and educational institutions. The Committee while endorsing the use of IT in disbursement of scholarships are of the view that it will besides making the entire process faster will also make the entire system transparent. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to accord top priority to development of suitable e-governance module so that e-payment system of scholarship soon becomes a reality.

1.53 The Committee are unhappy to note that most Private Institutions are charging full tuition fee from SC/OBC students at the time of admission which is refunded to them only when the same is received by these institutions from State Governments. It results in a lot of hardship to poor SC/OBC students who have to arrange for hefty fee amount at a short period. Taking a serious view on that, the Committee desire the Ministry to direct State Governments to issue

instructions to private institutions not to demand tuition fee from SC/OBC students who fulfill the eligibility criteria for scholarship schemes, but charge it from State Governments as being done by Government institutions.

1.54 The Committee note that students belonging to reserved categories face a lot of difficulties to obtain the caste certificate in their respective States and it becomes all the more difficult when it comes to migrant families. The Committee feel that the system put in place to issue the certificate is too bureaucratic and cumbersome. The Committee, therefore, desire that the caste certificate issuing procedure be revamped and simplified so that the concerned students do not face any difficulty in obtaining the same. The Committee would like proactive involvement of the Department in this regard.

1.55 The Committee are unhappy to note that despite a large number of grievances of SC/OBC students relating to payment of scholarships neither the Ministry have set up any Grievance Cell/Helpline nor have they issued any directions to this effect to the States. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to create a grievance Cell and also direct States/UTs to set up the same at State level so that there could be expeditious redressal of grievances of SC/OBC students.

1.56 The Committee observe that the Ministry is generating awareness about the scholarship schemes only through its weekly radio programme "SANWARTI JAYEN JEEVAN KI RAHEYEN" produced and broadcast in Hindi and 17 Regional languages through 30 Vividh Bharti, 71 Primary channels, 15 Primary Channels of North East and F.M. Stations of All India Radio. However, there is still general ignorance among the target groups especially in the rural areas that such

schemes exist for them. The Committee, therefore, desire besides the above programme, the Ministry should give wide publicity about its various scholarship Schemes through National Dailies and Vernacular papers, making available details of the scholarship schemes at Panchayat level and circulating pamphlets in regional languages. The poor SC/OBC students in rural areas should especially be made aware of the various scholarship schemes. Awareness campaigns should be organized at the beginning of the academic year in schools, educational institutions so as to generate awareness about the schemes amongst the students.

1.57 The Committee are unhappy to note that Ministry monitor the performance of its scholarship schemes through the quarterly/annual progress Reports furnished by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Committee also observe that nodal officers appointed for the States/UTs to undertake field visits for on-the-spot study for implementation of various schemes could not undertake visits on a significant scale due to pre-occupation in the Winter and Budget Session of Parliament and in processing the proposals of States/UTs and other implementing agencies. The Committee have also been informed that the Ministry implement the schemes through the State Governments/UT Administrations and the primary responsibility for monitoring the schemes at village, block and districts levels vests with the State Governments. The Committee feel that there should be a monitoring mechanism at the Central level and also spot visits are essential to ascertain the shortcomings of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a Monitoring Committee may be set up in the Ministry to ensure regular and strict monitoring of the implementation of

the schemes and top most priority must be accorded to the periodic spot field visits by the officials concerned so as to assess the ground realities. The Committee would like the Department to consider their recommendations/suggestions with all the seriousness and provide specific response on all the issues raised above.

SCHEME OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF THOSE ENGAGED IN UNCLEAN OCCUPATIONS

1.58 The scheme was started in 1977-78. Initially the scheme covered only hostellers. Subsequently, in the year 1991 day scholars were also brought within the purview of the scheme. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided for pre-matric education to children of the following target groups, viz, (i) Scavengers of dry latrines, (ii) sweepers having traditional links with scavenging, (iii) tanners, (iv) Flayers (v) manhole and open drain cleaners.

1.59 The salient features of the scheme include :-

- (a) Assistance under the scheme consists of two components, viz.
 - (i) Monthly Scholarship (for 10 months).
 - (ii) Annual Ad hoc Grant (to cover incidental expenses like stationery, uniform etc.).
- (b) There is no income ceiling or caste restriction for eligibility.
- (c) There are special provisions for students amongst target group with disabilities.
- (d) The scheme is implemented through State Governments.

1.60 The scheme was revised in December, 2008. The revision that became effective from 1.4.2008 *inter-alia* includes change in the pattern of Central Assistance and increase in rate of scholarship. The main changes brought out are summarized as under :-

(Amount in Rupees)

S. No.	Component of Scheme	Revised w.e.f. 1.4.2008		
1.	Monthly Scholarship	Class	Day Scholars	Hostellers
		I-II	110	-
		III-X	110	700
2.	Annual Ad-hoc Grant (Rs. Per annum)	Day Scholars – Rs. 750 Hostellers – Rs. 1000		
3.	Pattern of Central Assistance over and above committed liability	100% of State expenditure		

1.61 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure from the years 2006-07 to 2009-10 under the above mentioned scheme :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	16.00	16.00	20.25
2007-08	25.00	7.50	3.10
2008-09	54.00	54.00	59.30
2009-10	80.00	80.00	79.74 (anticipated)

1.62 A statement showing physical achievement during Xth Five Year Plan period and XI Five Year Plan under the scheme is as follows:-

X Plan		
Year	Target	Achievement (Beneficiaries in lakhs)
2002-03	This is an open ended scheme and there is no target	5.82

2003-04	has been fixed since 2002-03 to 2005-06	5.03
2004-05		5.61
2005-06		5.81
2006-07	6.00	6.56
XI Plan		
Year	Target	Achievement (Beneficiaries in lakhs)
2007-08	5,75	7.35
2008-09	6.00	6.22
2009-10	6.60	4.65 (anticipated)

SCHEME OF POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

1.63 The Committee have been informed that the objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. The financial assistance includes maintenance allowance, reimbursement of non-refundable compulsory fee charged by educational institutions, Book Bank facility and other allowances. The scholarships are available for studying in India only and are awarded by the Government of the States/Union Territories to which the applicant actually belongs.

1.64 According to the Ministry, with effect from 01.4.2003 all post-matric courses have been regrouped under following four groups :-

- **Group I** – Degree & PG/ Ph.D (Engineering, Medicine, Management, etc).

- **Group II** - Other than Group I Professional & Technical Graduate and PG Courses.
 - **Group III** - Graduate and above (General).
- Group IV** – Classes XI and XII.

1.65 The scholarship is provided to the students whose parents/guardians' income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh p.a. and the rates of allowances are as under :-

Rates of allowances under PMS for SC Students		
Groups	In Rupees per month	
	Hostellers	Day Scholars
Group I	740	330
Group II	540	330
Group III	335	185
Group IV	235	140

The Ministry informed that additional allowances for SC students with disabilities are also given.

Budgetary Allocation

1.66 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure from 2006-2007 to 2009-2010 under the above mentioned scheme :-

	(Rs. in crore)		
	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	450.00	485.10	526.03
2007-08	625.00	825.00	875.10
2008-09	750.00	636.00	645.50
2009-10	750.00	830.00	1015.96

1.67 It has been observed from above that Budget Estimate during 2006-07 and 2007-08 were Rs.450.0 crores and Rs.625.0 crores respectively but a higher amount has been spent.

1.68 The Committee enquired the reasons for the same and wanted to know what extra achievements made thereby, the Ministry in their written reply stated that the Central Government provides 100% central assistance under the scheme over and above the committed liability of the States/UTs. This is a demand-based scheme and the release of funds under the scheme depends upon the proposals sent by the State Governments/UTs and the admissible central assistance as per the funding pattern prescribed in the scheme.

1.69 Adding further the Secretary during evidence stated as under:

“Sir, our expenditure last year was 98 per cent of our budgetary allocation. Under this scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship, against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 750 crore we spent Rs. 1,050 crore. So, if we were not proactive in making efforts to ensure utilization, in fact over-utilization, of our scholarship money this would not have happened. I can assure you that we are as much concerned with making sure that the Post-Matric Scholarship assistance goes to the states, gets utilized by them and we reimburse them.”

1.70 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing amount of funds released State-wise under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme during 2006-07 to 2008-09 as under:-

Sl. No.	State /UT	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
		Funds released	Funds released	Funds released
1	A.P.	6255.74	24048.4	23978.11
2	Assam	374.86	469.82	0.00
3	Bihar	1892.74	0.00	2692.70
4	Chhattisgarh	734.00	482.85	100.00
5	Goa	19.29	0.00	0.00

6	Gujarat	1432.67	240.36	1556.29
7	Haryana	733.86	494.93	369.52
8	H.P.	99.29	78.84	0.00
9	J&K	173.64	0.00	378.47
10	Jharkhand	0.00	35.32	0.00
11	Karnataka	5142.22	7020.59	3267.91
12	Kerala	2965.14	4072.44	8132.43
13	M.P.	2827.98	695.983	1699.21
14	Maharastra	4356.86	15953.63	1000.00
15	Manipur	139.32	139.95	163.76
16	Meghalaya	1.62	0.00	0.00
17	Orissa	1739.68	0.00	500.00
18	Punjab	1091.50	539.8	200.00
19	Rajasthan	3804.48	3204.42	10340.11
20	Sikkim	4.48	0.00	3.44
21	Tamil Nadu	3233.97	6978.05	500.00
22	Tripura	307.17	180.56	410.98
23	Uttar Pradesh	11034.58	22313.71	4916.98
24	Uttaranchal	555.47	0.00	1089.36
25	West Bengal	3534.42	358.25	3250.23
26	Daman & Diu	2.23	0.33	0.00
27	D&N Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	Pondicherry	145.44	200	0.00
	Total	52602.65	87508.23	64549.49

1.71 It has been observed from above that during 2007-08 Rs. 87508.23 lakhs were released to States/UTs whereas during 2008-09 Rs. 64549.49 lakhs were released to States/UTs.

1.72 On being asked as to why less funds released to States/UTs during 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08, the Ministry stated that the actual implementation of the scheme rests with the respective State Government/ UT administration. The liability of the Central Government is to provide 100% central assistance over and above the committed liability. This is a demand-based scheme and the release of funds under the scheme depends upon the complete proposals sent by the State Governments/UTs and the admissible central assistance as per the funding pattern prescribed in the scheme.

1.73 During the year 2008-09, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, and Puducherry had unspent balances available with them from previous years. The funds could not be released to Uttar Pradesh and Assam during 2008-09 awaiting clarification on Audit Reports and reported incidents of mis-utilisation of funds. This resulted in less utilization of funds during that year.

1.74 Similarly the allocation to the States of Assam, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Daman & Diu, Delhi and Pondicherry under the Post Matric scholarship scheme for the year 2008-09 have been shown as nil.

1.75 When asked to state the reasons for non-allocation of funds to these States, the Ministry have furnished the State/UT wise reasons for non-allocation of funds to certain States/UTs during 2008-09 as under :-

SI. No	State/UT	Reasons
1.	Assam	The State Government had not furnished audited accounts/ utilization certificates for last many years. Accordingly, the State Government was requested to furnish the same but no reply was received, resulting in non-release of funds.
2.	Goa	The central assistance due to State Government during 2008-09 was Rs.2.70 lakhs, but an unspent balance of Rs.4.88 lakhs was already available with State Government.
3.	Himachal Pradesh	The proposed expenditure during 2008-09 was within the committed liability of State Government; hence no central assistance was due during 2008-09.
4.	Jharkhand	The State Government did not send the reply on clarifications sought by Ministry despite reminders, resulting in non-release of funds.
5.	Meghalaya	Proposal from the State Government for release of Central Assistance was not received.
6.	West Bengal	Central Assistance of Rs.3250.23 lakhs was duly released to the State Government during 2008-09.
7.	Daman & Diu	The proposed expenditure during 2008-09 was within the committed liability of UT Admn., hence no central assistance was

		due during 2008-09.
8.	Delhi	The proposed expenditure during 2008-09 was within the committed liability of State Government; hence no central assistance was due.
9.	Puducherry	The central assistance due to UT Admn during 2008-09 was Rs.115.60 lakhs, but an unspent balance of Rs.265.34 lakhs was already available with UT Admn.

Book Bank

1.76 Book Banks are to be set up in all the Medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Law and Veterinary Degree Colleges and Institutes imparting Chartered Accountancy, MBA and alike Management courses and Polytechnics where Scheduled Caste students are in receipt of Post Matric Scholarship. The set of text books will be purchased for 2 such SC students at various stages except in respect of Post-graduate courses and Chartered Accountancy where it will be one set for each student. However, the ratio of sets and students will have to be adjusted to the total number of sets that could be procured within the total resources allocated to the State concerned.

1.77 The details of courses covered for setting up of Book Banks, ceiling of admissible expenditure per set of books and sharing criteria are given below :-

S.No.	Courses	Sharing criteria	Ceiling per set (or actual cost whichever is less) (In rupees)
(i)	Degree courses in Medical/Engineering	1 set for 2 students	7,500
(ii)	Degree courses in veterinary	-do-	5,000
(iii)	Degree courses in Agriculture	-do-	4,500
(iv)	Polytechnics	-do-	2,400
(v)	A. Post Graduate courses in Medical, Engineering, Agriculture and veterinary courses and such other		5,000

	<p>technical/alike courses as are approved by the Universities/institutes of higher learning.</p> <p>B. Law courses, L.L.B. (3 years and 5 years) L.L.M. (2 years)</p> <p>C. Chartered Accountancy (intermediate and final)</p> <p>D. M.B.A. (2 years) and similar courses</p> <p>E. Bio-Sciences</p>		
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1.78 It is also stated that Primary responsibility for implementing the scheme including the Book Bank component lies with the State Governments/UTs, who incur expenditure from their committed liability with Central Government providing the additional fund requirements over and above their committed liability.

1.79 According to the Ministry the Planning Commission has agreed to conduct an All India Evaluation Study of the scheme of Post-matric scholarships for SC students through programme Evaluation organization.

1.80 The Committee enquired about the status of the study, the Ministry stated that the Development Evaluation Advisory Committee (DEAC) of the Planning Commission has approved the evaluation of the scheme by the Programme Evaluation Organization in March, 2010. However, the study has not yet been conducted.

TOP CLASS EDUCATION FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

Background

1.81 The Finance Minister in his budget speech on the Union Budget 2005-06 made the following announcements :-

"The key to empowering the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is to provide top class education opportunities to meritorious students. The three on-going scholarship schemes for SC/ST students under the Central Plan - Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-based - will continue. To provide an added incentive, I propose a new window: a short list of institutes of excellence will be notified, and any SC/ST student who secures admission in one of those institutes will be awarded a larger scholarship that will meet the requirements for tuition fees, living expenses, books and a computer".

1.82 Accordingly, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had a re-look at the critical gaps in quality education and drafted more liberal scholarship scheme in consonance with the budget speech, which can take care of the quality education for the SC students. It was considered apt to provide the new window to cover the funding for quality education to SC students up to degree/post degree level without any burden on the pupils or their family.

Objectives and Coverage

1.83 The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education amongst students belonging to SCs, by providing full financial support. The scheme will cover SC students for pursuing studies beyond 12th class.

1.84 The scheme will operate in all institutions notified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.85 The SC students, who secure admission in the notified institutions, will be awarded scholarship to meet the requirements for (i) full tuition fee and non-refundable charges (there will be a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakhs per annum per student for private sector institutions and Rs. 3.72 lakhs per annum per student for the private sector flying clubs for Commercial Pilot Training), (ii) living expenses @ Rs. 2220 per month per

student subject to actuals, (iii) books and stationery @ Rs. 3000 per annum per student subject to actuals and (iv) a latest computer with accessories like UPS, Printer, Multi-media limited to Rs. 45000 per student as one time assistance during the course. The Institute will procure computers and supply to the awardees. Alternatively, the Institute may also consider re-imburement of expenses made by a student on purchase of the computer, limited to Rs. 45,000/- provided, the computer and accessories are procured from a reputed manufacturer/supplier.

1.86 The scholarship, once awarded, will continue till the completion of the course, subject to satisfactory performance.

Rates and the number of Scholarships

1.87 There will be 5 awards available per Flying Club of Commercial Pilot License Course and 10 awards each for all other institutions for various courses of Engineering, LLB, Management, etc. The maximum limit of scholarships per institute can be increased subject to an overall capping of 1250 scholarships per year.

Funding Pattern

1.88 The Scheme will be funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 100% basis and the funds shall be released directly to the institution concerned. The funds may be released by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in a single installment immediately after the admission.

1.89 The Ministry have furnished the following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure from the years 2006-07 to 2009-10 under the above mentioned scheme :-

(Amount Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	5.00	5.00	0.00
2007-08	16.00	6.00	2.20
2008-09	20.00	5.00	5.00
2009-10	20.00	10.00	8.26 (anticipated)

1.90 The Committee enquired reasons for nil expenditure incurred during 2006-07 and less actual expenditure during 2007- 08, the Ministry stated that the Scheme was launched in financial year 2007-08, in June, 2007 and being the first year of the scheme the response from many institutes has not received/ received late and scholarships could be sanctioned in many cases in the next year. Other reasons for low expenditure were that many institutes could not avail the full quota of slots allotted to them in the absence of sufficient number of eligible students.

1.91 On being asked as to why budget estimate was kept Rs.20.0 crore while actual expenditure during 2008-09 was Rs.5.0 crore, the Ministry in their written reply stated that the budget estimate for the year 2008-09 was kept Rs.20.00 crore in anticipation of the receipt of sufficient proposals under Top Class Education Scheme from the various notified institutes. In the absence of sufficient response, the allocated budget could only be utilized to the extent of Rs.5.00 crore.

1.92 The Committee observed that the scheme of Top Class Education provides for 1250 scholarships every year, however, the scholarships awarded during the last three years i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been 195, 378 & 541 respectively.

1.93 On being asked to state the reasons as to why the scheme not picked up sufficiently to avail the full quota of scholarships, the Ministry stated that less than full utilization of scholarship slots could be attributed to the scheme being of relatively recent origin (2007-08), and therefore insufficient awareness in this regard.

1.94 The Committee enquired about the steps taken to give more publicity to the scheme and popularize the same among the SC students, the Committee have been informed that the Scheme is circulated to all the selected institutions at the beginning of the year with a request to forward proposals to this Ministry. An exercise was conducted during 2009 to rationalize the allotment of slots to various institutions and list of selected institutions was expanded from 125 to 177. This Scheme is also being publicized in other ways, and through the Ministry's website.

1.95 According to the Ministry, those SC Students who have secured admission in the notified institutions according to the norms prescribed by the respective institutes will be eligible for the scholarship under the scheme to the extent of scholarships allocated to the institutes concerned.

1.96 When asked how the candidates are selected in these Institutes, the Ministry in their written submission stated that these SC students are admitted in the notified institutions according to the norms prescribed by the respective institutions. In most cases (Engineering, Management, Medicine, Law, Fashion Technology/Design, Hotel Management and Catering, etc.) the admission is done on the basis of All India Common Entrance Tests. However, in some cases, like CPL training, Tata Institute of Social Science, National School of Drama, Film & Television Institute of India, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, etc. the admission may be done by the institutes on the basis of entrance test/assessment done by the institutes at their level.

1.97 The Committee enquired whether the Ministry is giving special training to students to get admission in these institutes, the Ministry stated that there is no provision under the Top Class Scholarship Scheme for giving special training to students to get admissions in notified institutions.

1.98 During evidence the Secretary admitted as under :-

“I think there is a strong need for supporting coaching facilities for SC-ST student so that they are able to get admission to premier institutions.”

NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

1.99 National Overseas Scholarship is meant to provide assistance to selected Scheduled Caste students for pursuing higher studies of Master level courses and PhD programmes abroad in specified fields of Engineering, Technology and Science only.

The Scheme provides for :-

- (i) Fees charged by institutions as per actual.
- (ii) Passage visa fee and insurance premium etc.
- (iii) Annual contingency allowance, incidental journey allowance.

1.100 As per the eligibility criteria, only one child of the same parents/guardians is eligible to get benefit under the Scheme. The prospective awardees should not be more than 35 years of age.

1.101 Applications in the prescribed format are invited for 30 overseas scholarships and 5 passage grant from eligible candidates belonging to the following categories:-

Sr.No.	Category	No. of Scholarship	No. of Passage Grant
1.	Scheduled Castes	27	04
2.	Denotified Nomadic and semi-Nomadic Tribes	02	01
3.	Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans	01	-

30% of the awards shall be earmarked for women candidates.

Income Ceiling

1.102 Total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians, in case of unemployed candidates shall not exceed Rs.25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand) per month, (excluding such allowances as are not treated as part of total income for the purpose of income tax) as certified by the employer. A copy of latest tax-assessment as well as latest monthly salary slip from the employer is also required to be enclosed with the application.

Rates of Scholarships

Current Rates for National Overseas Scholarship (With Effect From 9.7. 2007)		
Item	Amount admissible in UK (in GBP)	Amount admissible in US and other countries (in US \$)
A. Allowance/Tax/Fee etc.		
Annual Maintenance Allowance	9000	14000
Annual Contingency Allowance	1000	1375
Incidental Journey Allowance	Equivalent to US \$ 17	
Equipment Allowance	Rs. 1200	
Poll Tax	Actual amount	
VISA Fee	Actual VISA fee in Indian Rupee	
Fee and Medical Insurance Premium	Actual as charged	
Local Travel	Second or coach class fare	
B. Duration of Award		
Master Degree	3 years	
Ph.D	4 years	

1.103 The Ministry have furnished a following statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure from the years 2006-07 to 2009-10 under the above mentioned scheme :-

(Rs. in crore)

	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	1.4	1.1	1.05
2007-08	4.0	4.0	2.9
2008-09	5.0	5.0	5.0
2009-10	5.0	5.0	3.41 (anticipated)

1.104 On being asked to state the reasons for less expenditure incurred during 2007-08, the Ministry stated that the scheme is implemented through the Ministry of External Affairs through Indian Missions abroad. During each financial year, major portion of funds are placed at the disposal of the Ministry of External Affairs which utilizes the amount as per requirements from Indian Missions. The Indian Missions maintain liaison with the awardees and their institutions. Certain expenses such as cost of air tickets for NOS awardees are borne directly by the Ministry. Periodical progress reports are obtained from the educational institutions. During the year 2007-08, the number of total awards was increased from 20 to 30 per year. However, the number of awardees who could actually taken admission abroad did not increase which resulted in low expenditure during the year.

1.105 When enquired about the year-wise details of the targets and achievements in respect of beneficiaries for National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste since its inception, the Ministry stated that the scheme has been in operation since 1954-55 and 732 candidates were offered awards under the scheme up to 1994-95. Out of this, 524 awardees have availed the benefits. The year-wise details in this regard are not available. No selection was, however, made for the period 1995-96 to 1997-98 as the Committee for Non Plan Expenditure (CNE) had approved the continuation of the Scheme only from 1998-99 to 2000-2001. No Selection was made during the years 2000-01 to 2003-04. The physical performance of the scheme since 1998-99 is given below :-

Year	Target	No. of candidates selected	No. of awardees who availed the scholarship
1998-99	20	25@	14
1999-2000	20		
2000-2001	20	*	Not applicable
2001-02	20		
2002-03	20		
2003-04	20		
2004-05	20	20	13
2005-06	20	20	11
2006-07	20	15	05
2007-08	30	28	06
2008-09	30	**	
2009-10	30	\$	

@ Combined selection for the years 1998-99 & 1999-2000.

*No selection made. ** Selection process in progress.

\$ Advertisement for inviting applications from candidates issued on 6.2.2010.

1.106 The Committee enquired whether the Government is also giving training to the students to get admission into Foreign Universities; the Ministry stated that no formal training is given to the selected students to get admission into foreign Universities. However, since last three years, after final selection of candidates, an Orientation Workshop is being held by the Ministry for them, by inviting representatives from Ministry of External Affairs and selected Embassies of other Countries in India. The objective of this workshop is to sensitize the candidates about admission process etc. in foreign Universities.

1.107 On being asked whether the Ministry is contemplating to increase the awards from 30 to 100, the Ministry in their written submission stated that presently, there is no such proposal.

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

Scope of the scheme

1.108 The scheme was launched during the financial year 2005-06 and will award a total of 1333 Research Fellowships (Junior Research Fellows) per year to Scheduled Caste students. The scheme covers all universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is implemented by the UGC itself on the pattern of existing scheme of UGC Fellowships being awarded to Research students pursuing M.Phil, and Ph.D.

Implementing agency

1.109 UGC will be nodal agency for implementing the scheme. UGC will notify the scheme by releasing suitable advertisements in the Press.

Pattern of Financial Assistance

1.110 The scheme will be funded on co-sharing basis; i.e. 50% of the total expenditure will be borne by the Government of India as Central Assistance (over and above the committed liability) and 50% by the concerned State Government. The Union Territories will however, be provided 100% Central Assistance (over and above the committed liability).

1.111 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure from the years 2006-07 to 2009-10 under the above mentioned scheme :-

	BE	RE	(Rs. in crore) Actual Expenditure
2006-07	35.10	35.10	34.18
2007-08	88.00	53.60	78.30
2008-09	75.00	87.940	88.00

2009-10	80.00	105.00	105.00 (anticipated)
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1.112 On being asked as to why the Budget Estimate was kept at Rs.80.0 crore for 2009-10 while the actual expenditure during 2008-09 was Rs.88.0 crore, the Ministry in their reply stated that Budget Estimate for the scheme was restricted to Rs. 80.00 crores for 2009-10, keeping in view the total size of the Plan Budget and inter-se priority of fund allocation among various other schemes of the Ministry. However, the amount released to UGC during 2009-10 was Rs.105 crore keeping in view the projected requirements of University Grants Commission (UGC) through which the scheme is implemented. The allocation has been further enhanced to Rs. 160 crore during 2010-2011.

1.113 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the number of applications received for the above scholarship (both female and male) during the last three years, the Ministry stated that the number of applications received for the above scholarship (both female and male) during the last three years is shown in the table below:-

Years	Male	Female	Total
2006-07	3230	1142	4372
2007-08	4484	1425	5909
2008-09	4692	2203	6895
Total	12406	4770	17176

1.114 It is also stated that UGC has informed that the total number of applications received, under the scheme, have been increasing over a period of years.

1.115 It is seen from the above that the number of applications received under the scheme, has been increasing over a period of years while the number of awards per year has remained the same.

1.116 On being asked to state the number of applications rejected due to non-availability of funds under the scheme during the last three years, the Ministry stated that under the “Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) Scheme for SC students” total number of fresh fellowships available for SC students every year is 1333. These seats are being utilized every year and in case the number of applications received during a particular year exceeds this number, the selection is made on merit.

1.117 The number of applications rejected during the past three years, as per data made available by University Grants Commission (UGC), is indicated below:-

Selection Year	No. of applications received	No. of slots available	No. of applications rejected
2005-06 and 2006-07*	4372	2666	1706
2007-08	5909	1333	4576
2008-09	6895	1333	5562
*The scheme was started in 2005-06 and combined selection for 2005-06 and 2006-07 was done in 2006-07. @ The selection for 2009-10 is under process with UGC.			

1.118 The Committee enquired whether the Government propose to increase the number of awards per year or reduce the rate of fellowship of both Junior Research Fellowship/Senior Research Fellowship so that within the same amount more and more Scheduled Caste students could be benefitted, the Ministry in their written submission submitted that the students selected under the RGNF scheme are paid fellowships at rates on par with the rates prescribed by UGC. These rates were last revised in 2007. There is no proposal under consideration to reduce the rates of fellowship under this scheme. However, a proposal to increase the number of fresh fellowships per year is under consideration.

1.119 When asked whether the Ministry requested UGC to give further relaxation to SCs hailing from rural areas in grant of scholarship under the scheme, the Ministry stated that they have not given any direction to UGC to give relaxation to SC students hailing from rural areas.

1.120 In this context, during evidence the Secretary responded as under :-

“What we would do is, we would request the UGC that they should consider giving further relaxation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes coming from rural areas rather than having a uniform relaxation standard for all Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. If there are SC-ST students who hail from the rural areas or who have passed their qualifying examination should be given further relaxation.”

1.121 The Committee enquired whether the 50 per cent marks are required for getting admission into Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme.

1.122 In this context, during evidence, the Secretary stated as under :-

“There was a point that there is at least fifty percent marks required for them to obtain that. But there is no such stipulation. There is no requirement of fifty percent marks. The total number of scholarship is 1,313. It is divided among the States. So, for every State there is a certain number of scholarships. So, depending upon the number of applicants, the merit is decided there. It could be more than or less than fifty percent. So, the scheme *per se* does not stipulate fifty percent marks”.

SCHEME OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OBC STUDENTS

Objective

1.123 The Scheme was introduced in 1998-99. Under this scheme, scholarships are awarded to the students belonging to OBCs whose parent's/guardian's income from all sources do not exceed Rs. 44,500/- per annum. The scholarships are given to the students in class I or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of day scholars and class III or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of hostellers. The scholarship will terminate at the end of class X. The duration of scholarship in an academic year is 10 months. The scholarship is tenable in such

institutions and for such pre-matriculation courses, which have been duly recognized by the concerned State Government and Union Territory Administration. Under the scheme, 50% Central Assistance is provided to the State Governments and 100% to UTs over and above their Committed Liability. However, in the case of NE States there is no Committed Liability.

Duration and Course of Studies

1.124 The scholarships may be given to the students enrolled in class I or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of day scholars, and class III or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of hostlers. The scholarship will terminate at the end of class X. The duration of scholarship in an academic year will be 10 months.

Rates and Allowances of Scholarships

(Amount in Rs)

Day scholars		Hostlers		Ad-hoc Grant
Class I to V	25/-	III to VIII	200/-	Ad-hoc grants of Rs.500/- per student per annum to all students i.e. hostlers as well as day scholars.
Class VI to VIII	40/-	IX to X	250/-	
Class IX to X	50/-			

Mode of Applying

1.125 The concerned Department of the State Government/ Union Territory Administration will supply the application forms, which should be received back by the Department along with prescribed certificate, by the last date.

1.126 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure from the years 2006-07 to 2009-10 under the above mentioned scheme.

(Amount: Rs. in crore)

Years	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	25.00	25.00	25.27
2007-08	25.00	25.00	25.00
2008-09	30.00	25.00	32.20
2009-10	30.00	30.00	31.67(anticipated)

1.127 It has been observed from above that the actual expenditure has been high over Budget Estimates during 2006-07 and 2008-09.

1.128 When asked to state the reasons for the same, the Committee have been informed that this is due to higher demand from the State Governments under the scheme.

1.129 On being asked whether funds allocated during 2009-10 are adequate to meet the requirements, the Ministry stated that excess demand, over and above the budgetary allocation for 2009-10 was met to the extent possible through re-appropriation of savings from other schemes. Allocation of the scheme has been enhanced by Planning Commission to Rs 50.00 crore during 2010-11 from Rs 30.00 crore in 2009-10.

1.130 A statement showing Physical achievement during X Five Year Plan period and XI Five Year Plan under the scheme is as follows :-

Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)		
Year	Target as per the Outcome Budget	Beneficiaries in lakhs
2002-03	This is an open ended scheme and no targets are fixed. However, since 2006-07, anticipated numbers of students likely	5.86
2003-04		15.95
2004-05		12.88
2005-06		13.29

	to be covered are indicated in the Outcome Budget.	
2006-07	6.25	9.57
Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12)		
2007-08	7.00	16.81
2008-09	9.00	13.29
2009-10	10.08	9.57

SCHEME OF POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OBC STUDENTS

Objective

1.131 The scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for OBCs students was launched in 1998-99. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Development and Welfare of Backward Classes, it is proposed to launch a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) students. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the OBCs students studying at post matriculation or post secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.

Scope

1.132 These scholarships shall be available for studies in India only and will be awarded by the Government of State/Union Territory to which the applicant actually belongs, i.e. permanently settled. 100% central assistance will be provided to State Governments/Ut Administrations for this Purpose.

Value of Scholarship

1.133 Monthly rates of scholarship for various groups under the Scheme are as under :-

(Amount in Rs per month)		
Maintenance Allowance :-		
Day Scholars	Hostellers	Reader Charges for blind students

Group A, B, and C	190/-	Group A	425/-	Group A, B, and C	100/-
Group D	120/-	Group B & C	290/-	Group D	75/-
Group E	90/-	Group D	230/-	Group E	50/-
		Group E	150/-		

Other Allowances admissible under the scheme are :-

- Study Tour Charges - 500/- p.a. (subject to actual expenditure).
- Thesis Typing & Printing Charges for Thesis/ dissertation - 600/- (Maximum).
- Book Allowance – 500/- p.a.
- Scholars are paid enrolment/registration fee, and tuition, games, Union, Library, Magazine, Medical examination and other compulsory fees.

Selection of Candidates

1.134 All the eligible Other Backward Classes candidates will be given scholarships subject to the condition of eligibility prescribed in para III of this Scheme. Candidates belonging to one State but studying in another State will be awarded scholarship by the State to which they belong and will submit their applications to the competent authorities in that State . In the matter of exemption from fees or other concessions also they will be treated as if they were studying in their own.

1.135 The Ministry have furnished a statement showing the Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Actual Expenditure from the years 2006-07 to 2008-10 under the above mentioned scheme :-

	(Rs. in crore)		
	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
2006-07	34.00	34.90	53.30
2007-08	100.00	120.00	125.20
2008-09	134.00	145.19	179.70
2009-10	135.00	-	-

1.136 It has been observed from above that actual expenditure has always been high over Budget Estimates during the last three years.

1.137 On being asked to state the reasons for the same the Ministry stated that this is due to higher demand from the State Governments under the scheme, as compared to availability of budgetary allocation for the same.

1.138 The Committee enquired as to why the Budget Estimates was kept at Rs.135.00 crore during 2009-10 while the actual expenditure during 2008-09 was Rs.179.7 crore, the Ministry in their written reply submitted that during 2009-10 B.E. was Rs.135 crore and RE was Rs.180 crore. The demand of States was higher than the budgetary allocation. Against B.E. of Rs.135.00 crore for 2009-10, the actual expenditure was Rs. 172.96 crore. The additional funds were met by way of re-appropriation from savings in other Schemes. Therefore, the allocation has been enhanced to Rs. 350.00 crore during 2010-11.

1.139 The Committee observe that the objective of the pre-matric scholarship scheme for children of those engaged in unclean occupation is to promote education to children of scavengers, tanners, flayers etc. and to wean them away from their traditional occupation. The Committee, however, note that the number of beneficiaries under the scheme which was 7.35 lakhs in 2007-08 came down to 6.22 lakhs in 2008-09 and in 2009-10 the number of beneficiaries upto 31.12.09 has been only 4.65 lakhs. Keeping in view the importance of scheme which is aimed to assist the children of the families in the lowest strata of society in their pursuit of improving the educational status, the Committee desire the Ministry to get an evaluation done by a central agency on the impact of the scheme and also

find out reasons for declining number of beneficiaries under the scheme. There is further an urgent need to bring more awareness in the families of unclean occupations about the scheme so more and more children from these disadvantaged section are able to pursue the pre-matric education with a cushion of financial support of the Government. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to impress upon the States to give utmost importance to the effective implementation of the scheme and give intense publicity among the families engaged in unclean occupations not only through print and electronic media but officials of concerned State organizations should approach such families and motivate them to send their children to schools and take benefit of the scheme.

1.140 The Committee are unhappy to note that under the post-matric scholarship scheme during 2007-08 whereas an amount of Rs. 87508.23 lakhs had been released to the States/UTs only a reduced amount of Rs. 64549.49 lakhs could be released to States/UTs during the year 2008-09. The Committee are also given to understand that many States did not receive any funds under the scheme during 2008-09 due to non-submission of proposals, not furnishing audited accounts/Utilization Certificates and huge unspent balances already lying with them. The Committee are not happy with the above situation and recommend the Ministry to persuade the above States to utilize the unspent amount lying with them strictly within the financial year so that fresh funds could be released to them on a regular basis. The Committee also desire the Ministry to take up the matter regarding sending of clarification on the Audit para as well as action on

misutilized funds with Uttar Pradesh and Assam so that funds are released to these States without any further delay.

1.141 The Committee observe that as per the existing provision under scholarship scheme, Book Banks are to be set up in all the Medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Law and Veterinary Degree Colleges and Institutes imparting Chartered Accountancy, MBA and alike Management courses and Polytechnics where Scheduled Caste students are in receipt of post matric scholarship. The Committee are constrained to note that as per the existing provision books are issued on the basis of sharing criterion of one set for two students. On the Book Bank facility and feasibility for providing separate sets of books to each student the Ministry have stated that primary responsibility for implementing the scheme including the Book Bank component lies with the State Governments/UTs, which incur expenditure from their committed liability with Central Government providing the additional fund requirements over and above their committed liability. Considering the fact that text books are very important for the students who are pursuing professional courses such as Medical, Engineering, Agriculture etc. there is an urgent need making these available to all the needy students. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should direct the State Governments to make available separate set of books for every student so that their studies are not affected.

1.142 The Committee observe that the Planning Commission has agreed to conduct an All India Evaluation Study of the scheme of post-matric scholarships for SC students through programme evaluation organization in March, 2010.

However, the study has not yet been conducted. The Committee, therefore, desire that Ministry should pursue the matter with the Planning Commission so that evaluation study of the post-matric scholarship scheme is conducted as early as possible.

1.143 The Committee observe that the scheme of Top Class Education launched in 2007-08, provides for 1250 scholarships every year. However, the scholarships awarded during the last three years i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been 195, 378 & 541 respectively. The main reason attributed for not availing utilization of scholarship slots could be attributed to the scheme of being relatively recent origin (2007-08) and consequently inadequate awareness about it. Though the Ministry have contended that the scheme is circulated to all the selected institutions at the beginning of the year with a request to forward proposals to this Ministry, the Committee feel that wide publicity about this scheme has not been given by the States/UTs as a result most SC students are not aware of this scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to impress upon States/UTs to give wide publicity of the scheme among SC students so that they apply in large numbers and full quota of scholarship slots could be availed.

1.144 The Committee also observe that under the Top Class Scholarship Scheme in most cases (Engineering, Management, Medicine, Law, Fashion Technology/Design, Hotel Management and Catering, etc.) the admission is done on the basis of All India Common Entrance Tests and in some cases, like CPL training, Tata Institute of Social Science, National School of Drama, Film & Television Institute of India, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, etc. the

admission is done by the institutes on the basis of entrance test/assessment. However, there is no provision under the scheme for giving special training to students to get admissions in notified institutions. During evidence the Secretary also admitted that there is a strong need for supporting coaching facilities for SC students. The Committee feel that in the absence of any proper coaching /training to SC students, they are not able to successfully compete with general category students for admission in premier institutes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that some coaching/training be imparted to them to prepare them for entrance examination.

1.145 The Committee are unhappy to note that under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme launched in 1954-55 only 732 students were offered awards upto 1994-95 out of which 524 students availed the benefit of the scheme. The Committee also find that for the period 1995-96 to 1997-98 no selection was made as the Committee for Non Plan Expenditure had approved the continuation of the scheme only from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 and also no selection was made during the years 2000-01 to 2003-04. The Committee also note with dismay that under the scheme targets were not always achieved. The Committee have been informed that no formal training is imparted to the selected students for admission into foreign Universities. However, an orientation Workshop is being held by the Ministry for selected students by inviting representatives from Ministry of External Affairs and selected Embassies of other Countries in India to sensitize the candidates about admission process etc. in foreign Universities. The Committee feel that holding an orientation workshop is not enough and there is a need to give proper counseling/guidance to selected students to enable them to

take admission in foreign universities. The Committee therefore desire the Ministry to tie up with specialized agencies having expertise on the matter and therefore in a position to deliver the goods.

The Committee also observe that the scheme is available only for a small number of technical courses. All Science, Humanities, Commerce and Management courses have not been included. The Committee was informed that the number of students from SC category who get admission in overseas Universities in technical courses is small and, therefore, there is not always full utilization of awards. The Committee recommend that the list of subjects for which the students may go abroad be widened and corresponding increase in number of scholarships.

1.146 The Committee find that under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students every year 1333 fellowships are awarded for Scheduled Caste students. The Committee are constrained to note that the number of applications received under the scheme i.e. 4372 during 2006-07, 5909 during 2007-08 and 6895 during 2008-09 has been increasing while the number of awards per year has remained the same. The Committee have been informed that a proposal to increase the number of fresh fellowships per year is under consideration. Keeping in view the population of Scheduled Caste students and the number of applications rejected every year, these fellowships are not sufficient, the Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the number of fellowships may be increased immediately so that more and more number of students could get fellowships.

1.147 The Committee note that the number of applications received is more than 5 times than the fellowships awarded under the scheme and students are

selected on merit basis. The Committee observe that no relaxation is given to SC students hailing from rural areas. However, during evidence Secretary assured that they would request the UGC to give further relaxation to Scheduled Caste Students coming from rural areas. As the standard of teaching and facilities available in the rural areas are much below than that of urban areas, the Committee feel that SC students hailing from these areas need to be given some special consideration. The Committee therefore recommend the Government to consider giving suitable relaxation in percentage of marks to SC students hailing from rural areas so that they are able to get benefit of the scheme.

1.148 The Committee observe that under the schemes of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for OBC students introduced during the year 1998-99, the actual expenditure has been constantly on the higher side exceeding the Budget Estimates/Revised Estimates. In the case of pre-matric scholarships, the actual expenditure has been high over Budget Estimates during 2006-07 and 2008-09 and in respect of post-matric scholarships, the actual expenditure has always been high over Budget Estimates during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Committee have been given to understand that the higher expenditure has been due to high demand from the State Governments. The Committee also observe that under the pre-matric scholarship for OBC students very meagre amounts i.e. Rs. 25/- from Class I to V, Rs. 40/- from Class VI to VIII and Rs. 50/- from Class IX to X and under post matric scholarship for OBC students Rs. 190/- for Group A,B,C, Rs. 120 for Group D and Rs. 90/- for Group E for Day scholars are being awarded to the students which are grossly inadequate to meet the educational needs of these students. The Committee feel that for the large section of OBC

students who are in dire need of financial support the existing rate of scholarships under both the heads of pre-matric and post-matric is just not sufficient and there is correspondingly a need to increase the allocation of funds under both the scholarship schemes for OBCs. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to examine the feasibility of increasing funds under both the schemes by seeking an enhanced allocation in the budgetary estimates during the next financial year so that the above schemes do not suffer due to paucity of funds.

NEW DELHI;
25th November, 2010
4 Agrahayana, 1932 (Saka)

DARA SINGH CHAUHAN
Chairman,
Standing Committee on
Social Justice and
Empowerment

ANNEXURE –I**Schemes of State Governments for Financial Assistance to SC students at Pre-matric Stage**

S.No	State	Classes for which Scholarship given	Annual Financial Assistance		Books and Stationery
			Scholarship		
			Boys	Girls	
1.	Uttar Pradesh	I-V VI-VIII IX-X	250 400 600	250 400 600	
2.	Maharashtra	VI-VII VIII-X	- -	600 1000	
3.	Bihar	I-IV V-VI VII-X	180 360 660	180 360 660	
4.	Rajasthan	VI-VIII IX-X	150 300	200 400	
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Day Scholars IX-X Hostellers I-X	600 5000	800 5250	
6.	Karnatka	I-V VI-VII VIII-X	75 75 100	75 325 600	
7.	Punjab	I-V VI-VIII IX-X	Nil 300 500-750	500 400 500-750	Free of cost text books to SC students in classes' I-X in Govt. and private Recognized schools
8.	Orissa	Day Scholars I-V VI-VII VIII-X Hostellers I-X	Nil 100 150 4000	Nil 150 200 4250	
9.	Gujarat	I-IV V-VII (Govt. Schools) V-VII(Pvt. School VIII-X	75 125 200 200	100 125 200 200	
10	NCT of Delhi		Reimbursement of fees to all in classes I-V		Rs 450 for classes VI-VII and Rs 750 for IX-XII
11.	Andhra Pradesh	I-X	Rs 8000 to Rs 20000 for hostellers		

ANNEXURE -II

Disbursement of Scholarships by difference States/ UTs				
<u>Scheme: Post Matric Scholarships for SC</u>				
<u>I. States in which scholarship is fully paid through Post Offices/Bank Accounts</u>				
S. No	State / UT	Total No. of Beneficiaries in 08-09	% age of Students who are being paid scholarships through Post Offices/ Banks	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1	ANDHRA PR.	523985	100.00	Through Bank ATM cards
2	BIHAR	Not given	Not given	Payment through Bank Accounts
3	GUJARAT	75054	100.00	Through Banks
4	HARYANA	26620	100.00	Through Banks
5	ORISSA	63104	100.00	Through A/cs in POs/ Banks
6	UTTAR PRADESH	Not given	Not given	Payment of scholarships 100% through Banks
<u>II. States in which scholarship is partially paid through Post Offices/Bank Accounts</u>				
S. No	State / UT	Total No. of Beneficiaries in 08-09	% age of Students who are being paid scholarships through Post Offices/ Banks	Remarks
1	CHHATTISGARH	51304	-	Through Banks but Individual A/cs not opened. A combined A/c in the name of Principal/Head of Institution is opened.
2	TRIPURA	21371	40 - 45%	Almost all Institutions are disbursing scholarship either through account payee cheque or through Bank A/c. Further instructions have been issued to make payment through Bank/PO only
3	PUNJAB	62000	5.00	Only 5% students are being paid through Bank
4	KERALA	121990	2.32	Through Banks

III. States which have issued instructions to open A/cs in Post Office/Bank				
1	HIMACHAL PR.	9305	0.00	Payment through cheques to Principals/Headmasters, who further distribute scholarship to students. However, instructions already issued to open Bank A/cs of students
2	MAHARASHTRA	Not furnished	Not furnished	Action has been initiated to make payment through Banks, which may take around 2 months
3	RAJASTHAN	195260	-	From 2009-10 disbursement through Pos/ Banks is compulsory at college level. Instructions being issued to ensure this at school level also.
4	SIKKIM	Not furnished	Not furnished	Every effort is being made to sensitize the awardees to open individual accounts in POs/Banks
IV. States in which instructions have not yet been issued to open A/cs in Post Office/Bank				
1	GOA	119	0.00	Payment through educational Institutions
2	JAMMU & KASHMIR	2017	100.00	Payees A/c cheques
3	MADHYA PR.	148244	100.00	Through Account payee cheques
4	DELHI	975	100.00	Through Cheques
V. States which have furnished Nil information				
1	MIZORAM	Nil	Nil	Nil information
2	NAGALAND	Nil	Nil	No SCs in the State
3	LAKSHADWEEP	Nil	Nil	No SCs in the State
VI. State which have not sent any reply so far				
1	Assam			
2	Jharkhand			
3	Karnataka			
4	Manipur			
5	Uttarakhand			
6	West Bengal			
7	Chandigarh			
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli			
9	Puducherry			
10	Meghalaya			

11	Tamil Nadu			
12	Andaman & Nicobar Island			

Disbursement of Scholarships by States/ UTs				
Scheme: Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs				
I. States in which scholarship is fully/partially paid through Post Offices/Bank Accounts				
S. No.	State / UT	Total No. of Beneficiaries in 08-09	% age of Students who are being paid scholarships through Post Offices/Banks	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1	ANDHRA PR.	1053041	100.00	Through Bank ATM cards/Bank Accounts
2	BIHAR	-	-	Payment through Banks also.
3	GUJARAT	33545	100.00	Through Banks
4	HARYANA	28705	100.00	Through Banks
5	ORISSA	6905	100.00	Through A/cs in Banks
6	UTTAR PRADESH	1301787	100.00	Through ECS.
II. States which have issued instructions to open A/cs in Post Office/Bank				
1	HIMACHAL PR.	2110	0.00	Payment through cheques to Principals/Headmasters, who further distribute scholarship to students. However, instructions already issued to open Bank A/cs of students
2	KARNATAKA	21750	0.00	Earlier being paid through cheques. Now instructions issued to open A/cs in Bank/PO
3	KERALA	203471	0.00	Rolling out the system throughout the State this year
4	MAHARASHTRA	Not furnished	Not furnished	Action has been initiated to make payment through Banks, which may take around 2 months
5	RAJASTHAN	20651	100.00	From 2009-10 disbursement through POs/ Banks at college level. Instructions being issued to make it compulsory at school level also.
6	TAMIL NADU	195829	90.00	Instructions being issued to cover all the students.
7	PUDUCHERRY	3713	0.00	Instructions have been issued to make payment through Pos/Banks from 2009-10 onwards
8	SIKKIM	Not furnished	Not furnished	Every effort is being made to sensitize the awardees to open individual accounts in Pos/Banks
9	PUNJAB	30541	11.00	Only 11% student are being paid through Bank A/c
10	TRIPURA	19400	40.45%	Almost all Institutions are

				disbursing scholarship either through account payee cheque or through Bank A/c. Further instructions have been issued to make payment through Bank/PO only
11	CHHATTISGARH	94651	100.00	Central Scheme is not being implemented. There is a similar scheme of State, which is being implemented. Through Banks but Individual A/cs not opened. A combined A/c in the name of Principal/Head of Institution is opened.
III. States in which payment being made through cheques/in cash and no instructions have been issued to open A/cs in Post Office/Bank				
1	GOA	574	0.00	Payment through educational Institutions
2	JAMMU & KASHMIR	4001	0.00	Payees A/c cheques
IV. States which have not furnished or furnished Nil information				
1	MADHYA PR.	-	-	No information furnished
2	JHARKHAND	-	-	No information furnished
3	UTTRAKHAND	-	-	No information furnished
4	WEST BENGAL	-	-	No information furnished
5	MANIPUR	-	-	No information furnished
6	DELHI	-	-	No information furnished
7	ASSAM	-	-	No information furnished
8	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	-	-	No information furnished
9	MEGHALAYA	-	-	No information furnished
10	MIZORAM	-	-	No information furnished
11	NAGALAND	-	-	No information furnished
12	LAKSHADWEEP	-	-	No information furnished
13	D&N HAVELI	-	-	No information furnished
14	DAMAN AND DIU	-	-	No information furnished
15	CHANDIGARH ADMN	-	-	No information furnished
16	A & NICOBAR ISLANDS	-	-	No information furnished

DETAILS OF EDUCATIONAL LOAN SCHEME

- **Commencement of the Scheme:**

Introduced w.e.f. 01.12.2009

- **Eligibility:**

Scheduled Castes students having annual family income below double the poverty line i.e. ` 40,000/- in rural areas and ` 55,000/- in urban areas.

- **Courses for which loan is sanctioned:**

Full time professional/technical courses in the fields of engineering, medical, dental, management, information technology, architecture, physiotherapy, bio-technology, law, education, journalism etc. and Professional courses like CA/ICWA/CS/AMIE/FIA/IETE and higher education like studies leading to M.Phil/Ph.D from recognized institutions.

- **Purpose of Loan:**

The Educational Loan is meant to cover Admission Fee, Tuition Fee, Books, Stationery and other instruments required for the course, examination fee, boarding & lodging expenses, insurance premium for policy for insuring loanees against loans in case of death or permanent disability, travel expenses/ passage money for studying abroad and caution money, development fund.

- **Loan Amount:**

Maximum of 90% of ` 7.50 lakh for study within India and ` 15.00 lakh for study in abroad.

- **Rate of Interest:**

5% p.a. (1% p.a. rebate to women).

- **Security:**

Education Loans are secured by State Government Guarantee/Assurance provided by SCAs. Regarding guarantee from the beneficiaries, it is for the SCAs to decide on the issue.

- **Recovery Period:**

20 quarterly installments. Recovery (principal and interest) to commence after six months of completion of the course or getting employment, whichever is earlier.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON FRIDAY, 8TH JANUARY, 2010

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1330 hrs. in Committee Room 'C' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty
3. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
4. Smt. Rama Devi
5. Shri Baliram Jadhav
6. Dr. Manda Jagannath
7. Shri Basori Singh Masram
8. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
9. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
10. Shri Manohar Tirkey

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

11. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
12. Shri Narayan Singh Kesari
13. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A. Mukhophadhyay - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
3. Shri S.C. Kaliraman - Additional Director

sitting of the Committee. Then he requested the Secretary to explain to the Committee various aspects of schemes being implemented for the educational welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by the Ministry.

4. The Members then raised queries, which *inter-alia* related to enhancement of budget for various scholarships schemes, need for revision of the parents income ceiling for scholarship schemes, need to increase the rates of scholarship schemes and discrepancies in pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes among SCs and OBCs.

5. The Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment responded to the queries put forth by the Members. The Chairman directed him to furnish expeditiously replies to those points which could not be replied in the meeting.

6. Hon'ble Chairman thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views in a free and frank manner.

7. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON TUESDAY, 25TH MAY, 2010.**

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs. in Committee Room No. 53,
Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri E.T. Mohamed Basheer
3. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
4. Smt. Rama Devi
5. Shri Premchand Guddu
6. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
7. Shri Baliram Jadhav
8. Dr. Manda Jagannath
9. Shri Mohan Jena
10. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
11. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

12. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
13. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
14. Shri Narayan Singh Kesari
15. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
16. Shri Nand Kishore Yadav

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri A. Mukhophadhyay | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Anita Jain | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Mishra | - | Deputy Secretary |

NON-OFFICIAL WITNESSES

1.	Dr. M.L. Ranga	Vice-Chancellor, Guru Jumbheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar and former Vice- Chancellor, Kurukshetra University & former Health Minister Haryana.
2.	Shri Kunj Bihari Shakiwal	All Rajasthan SC/ST/OBC Officers Employee Joint General Association, Kota Division, Kota Rajasthan.
3.	Shri M. Ramachandra	Joint Director of Social Welfare Dept., Working on deputation as Executive Director in R.R. Distt. SCSC Society Ltd., Hyderabad.
4.	Shri M.P. Antoni	Project Director, Rajagiri Educational alternatives and Community Health (outREACH) Service Society.
5.	Shri Ram Dhiraj	229, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar P.G. Chatrawas, 3 – Tirllok Nath Marg, Hazatganj, Lucknow.
6.	Dr. P.V. Ratnam	Director, Dr. Ambedkar National Research Institute, Hyderabad & Advocate, High Court of AP.

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members and the non-official witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. He informed them that the Committee is presently examining the subject "Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Other Backward Classes(OBCs)". He also stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to interact with them in order to ascertain their views/suggestions. The Chairman then asked the witnesses to give their views/suggestions on the subject.

3. The non-official witnesses put forth their views/suggestions on various aspect of the subject for the consideration of the Committee and also answered the queries raised by the Members on their suggestions.

4 Hon'ble Chairman then thanked the non-official witnesses for their valuable suggestions on the subject.

5. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON MONDAY, 30TH AUGUST, 2010

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1645 hrs. in Committee Room 'B' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

1. Shri T.R. Baalu
2. Smt. Rama Devi
3. Shri Premchand Guddu
4. Dr. Manda Jagannath
5. Shri Basori Singh Masram
6. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
7. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

8. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
9. Shri Narayan Singh Kesari

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita Jain | - | Director |
| 2. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Mishra | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Dr. (Smt.) Sagarika Dash | - | Under Secretary |

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT AND MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Sl.No.	Name of the Officer	Designation and Organisation
1.	Shri K.M. Acharya	Secretary, M/o SJE
2.	Smt. Sangita Gairola	Additional Secretary, M/o SJE
3.	Dr. K. Gunasekaran,	Additional Secretary-I, (HRD), UGC
4.	Shri Sanjeev Kumar	Joint Secretary, M/o SJE
5.	Shri P.P. Mitra	Joint Secretary, M/o SJE
6.	Dr. Arbind Prasad	Joint Secretary, M/o SJE
7.	Dr. A.N. Jha	Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, M/o SJE
8.	Dr. J.C. Sharma	Economic Advisor
9.	Shri Mukat Singh	Deputy Director General, M/o SJE
10.	Smt. Reena Garg	Director, M/o SJE

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members and representatives of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs".

3. The Members raised queries, which *inter-alia* related to delay in effecting revision of scholarship rates and the parents' income ceiling for various scholarship schemes, Awareness Programmes about scholarship schemes especially the Pre-matric

scholarship scheme for children of persons engaged in unclean occupations, high Drop-out rate of SC students, need for increase in number of Fellowships under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, delay in sanction and disbursement of scholarship amounts. The Committee further expressed their disapproval on charging of full tuition fees from SCs/OBCs students by private institutions at the time of admission to which Secretary assured that all possible steps will be taken in this direction.

4. The Secretary and other representatives of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment responded to the queries put forth by the Members.

5. Hon'ble Chairman thanked the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry for giving valuable information to the Committee on the subject and expressing their views in a free and frank manner.

6. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON THURSDAY, 25th NOVEMBER, 2010.

The Committee met from 1500 hrs. to 1520 hrs. in Committee Room 'C, PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

1. Shri E.T. Mohamed Basheer
2. Smt. Rama Devi
3. Shri Premchand Guddu
4. Dr. Manda Jagannath
5. Shri Basori Singh Masram
6. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
7. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
8. Shri Subhash Bapurao Wankhede

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

9. Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri
10. Shri Narayan Singh Kesari
11. Shri Ahmad Sayeed Malihabadi
12. Shri Baishnab Parida
13. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
14. Shri Nandi Yelliah

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri V.R. Ramesh | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Anita Jain | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Mishra | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Dr. (Smt.) Sagarika Dash | - | Under Secretary |

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee.

3. The Committee then considered and adopted the draft Eleventh Report on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with minor modifications/amendments.

4. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalize the draft Report and present the same to both Houses of Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

STATEMENT OF OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Sl. No.	Para	Observations/Recommendations
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	1.43	<p>The Committee note that the budgetary allocations for scholarship schemes for SCs and for OBCs students which was only Rs. 935 crores and Rs. 165 crores respectively during 2009-2010 was significantly enhanced to Rs. 1971 crores and Rs. 400 crores in the budget 2010-2011. The Committee have been given to understand that the Ministry would utilize increased allocation on the long pending issue of revision of scholarship rates under the post matric scholarship scheme for SCs and OBCs. The Committee welcome the increase of allocation of funds to the Ministry and hope this increase would stand them in good stead when the matter of revision of scholarship rates and income ceiling is taken up in the right earnest. However, looking at the critical importance of the scholarship schemes in improving the access of SCs/OBCs students to education, the Committee desire that the other scholarship schemes which have combined allocations of only Rs. 681 crore during 2010-2011 should also be reviewed and revised to improve their rates and coverage so that more and more students from these disadvantaged sections are able to benefit from these schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to pursue with well formulated proposals with the Government for increased allocations for other scholarship schemes as well so that they can also be suitably revised with increased coverage to bring in more SCs and OBCs students within the ambit of various scholarship schemes.</p>
2.	1.44	<p>The Committee are unhappy to note that there is a substantial delay in the revision of post matric scholarship schemes for SCs/OBCs which was last revised during 2003. On the status of the revision of the scholarship schemes, the Committee have been informed that the revision is under consideration and is proposed to be effected by the end of the year. Keeping in view the considerable price hike, the Committee feel that there is an urgent need to increase the rates as per the present consumer price Index. Also with considerable increase in salaries of Government employees consequent to 6th Pay Commission Report and with no increase in income ceiling many deserving SC students have been left out of the ambit of scholarship scheme. Since these scholarship schemes empower and sustain the interest of SC/OBC students towards</p>

		formal education, the revision should be all-encompassing taking into account every parameter of the scheme viz. income criteria, rates of scholarship, norms for award of scholarship, the time and the mode of payment, etc. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to expedite the process of revising the schemes so that SC/OBC students are able to get enhanced rates in the current academic year itself. The Committee further desire that the scholarship rates be linked with the consumer price index and reviewed at the beginning of each academic year so that in the event of increase in price index, the scholarship rates are suitably increased.
3.	1.45	The Committee observe that there are different rates of scholarships as well as income ceiling limits for SCs/OBCs/STs and minorities. The Committee have been informed that since these scholarship schemes are being run by three different Ministries, there is no coordinated view while effecting revisions under different schemes. The Committee are of the view that since all these schemes relate to disadvantaged sections of the society and therefore, it is desirable to have some uniformity in the various scholarship schemes. In this connection, the Secretary during evidence opined that there should be an umbrella authority to be named 'National Scholarship Authority' which can take a coordinated view of the income ceiling limit, rates, etc. in the various scholarship schemes. The Committee while concurring with the above, desire the Government to consider setting up such an Authority under the Planning Commission/Ministry of HRD to go into the entire gamut of various scholarship schemes and take a well considered and coordinated view for determining scholarship rates, coverage etc. of all scholarship schemes pertaining to SCs/OBCs/STs and Minorities.
4.	1.46	The Committee observe that the Ministry has been implementing a Scholarship Scheme for Students with Disabilities from a fund of the Ministry called the 'National Fund for People with Disabilities'. The Committee also observe that up to five hundred Scholarships 250 each for male and female students are given annually through institutions in which students are pursuing studies/courses and amount i.e. Rs. 48.07 lakh during 2007-08, Rs. 66.30 lakh during 2008-09 and Rs. 35.04 lakh during 2009-10 was released for the purpose. The Committee feel that keeping in view the large number of people suffering from different types of disabilities, these awards and funds are not sufficient. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that with effect from next financial year, awards and funds under this category of scholarship may be increased suitably.

5.	1.47	<p>The Committee note that according to selected Educational statistics 2006-07, published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the dropout rate for SCs students at pre-matric stage is as high as 70% and when compared to all categories students it is higher by a significant 10%. The Committee further note that pre-matric scholarship scheme for SC students which can be instrumental into reducing the drop out rate is limited only to students of parents engaged in unclean occupations. The Ministry had sent a proposal for Planning Commission's approval for introducing pre-matric scholarship for all SC students and though the Planning Commission has conveyed its approval in principle, the Ministry has not been able to get the required allocation for the scheme. The Committee wish to emphasize that scholarships for poor SC students at pre-matric stage will greatly motivate and facilitate them to attend schools in large numbers and also reduce the dropout rates. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to make concerted efforts to get requisite allocation for introduction of the pre-matric scholarship scheme for all SC students during the next financial year so that the scheme is fully implemented at the earliest or in the beginning of 12th plan.</p>
6.	1.48	<p>The Committee further observe that some State Governments are implementing scholarship schemes for SC students at pre-matric level from their own budgetary resources which has helped in bringing down the drop out rates. While appreciating efforts of these State Governments, the Committee desire the Government to give suitable incentive to all States to implement Pre-matric scholarship schemes at their own levels till the implementation of such scheme at Central level.</p>
7.	1.49	<p>The Committee note that the Ministry has advised State Governments to make payments of scholarships through Post Office/Bank. The Committee are, however, unhappy to note that so far only in six States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh scholarship is fully paid through Post Office/Bank Account while in the rest of States it has not been implemented at all or partially implemented and the payment is made through the Principals and Head Masters who further distribute scholarships to the students which results in delays. The Committee desire that the Ministry should sensitise the States about the same and vigorously pursue the opening of bank accounts of all the beneficiaries within a definite time frame.</p>

8.	1.50	<p>During interaction with non-officials witnesses, the Committee found that there is a considerable delay in sanction and disbursement of scholarships. On this issue, the Secretary impressed upon the Committee during evidence that the delay in payment of scholarship is not due to delay in release of Central assistance. On the contrary, the delay is caused by the State Governments which do not spend the money falling under their Committed liability on time. The Committee are of the strong view that delay in payment of scholarships virtually defeats the very purpose for which the same has been introduced. Therefore, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take up the matter of timely payment of scholarships with State Governments at Chief Secretary level. The Committee also recommend that scholarships should be paid Quarterly positively beginning with first installment immediately after the admission. The Committee may be apprised of the concrete measures taken by the Department in this direction and response of the States.</p>
9.	1.51	<p>The Committee have been further informed that some State Governments are making payments towards maintenance allowance under the scholarship schemes for only 10 months instead of 12 months with a view to reduce their burden of committed liability. Taking a serious view on that, the Committee recommend the Ministry to take up the matter with State Governments at the Chief Secretary level and ensure that full scholarship amount is paid to students for 12 months.</p>
10.	1.52	<p>The Committee find that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh have implemented computer based online processing, sanction and disbursement of Post-matric scholarship to SC & OBC students through bank. However, the majority of States are yet to implement computer based online processing, sanction and disbursement. The Committee have been informed that the Ministry has asked NIC to develop suitable e-governance module for implementation of the scholarship scheme at all 4 critical levels – Central Government, State Government, district administration and educational institutions. The Committee while endorsing the use of IT in disbursement of scholarships are of the view that it will besides making the entire process faster will also make the entire system transparent. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Ministry to accord top priority to development of suitable e-governance module so that e-payment system of scholarship soon becomes a reality.</p>

11.	1.53	The Committee are unhappy to note that most Private Institutions are charging full tuition fee from SC/OBC students at the time of admission which is refunded to them only when the same is received by these institutions from State Governments. It results in a lot of hardship to poor SC/OBC students who have to arrange for hefty fee amount at a short period. Taking a serious view on that, the Committee desire the Ministry to direct State Governments to issue instructions to private institutions not to demand tuition fee from SC/OBC students who fulfill the eligibility criteria for scholarship schemes, but charge it from State Governments as being done by Government institutions.
12.	1.54	The Committee note that students belonging to reserved categories face a lot of difficulties to obtain the caste certificate in their respective States and it becomes all the more difficult when it comes to migrant families. The Committee feel that the system put in place to issue the certificate is too bureaucratic and cumbersome. The Committee, therefore, desire that the caste certificate issuing procedure be revamped and simplified so that the concerned students do not face any difficulty in obtaining the same. The Committee would like proactive involvement of the Department in this regard.
13.	1.55	The Committee are unhappy to note that despite a large number of grievances of SC/OBC students relating to payment of scholarships neither the Ministry have set up any Grievance Cell/ Helpline nor have they issued any directions to this effect to the States. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to create a grievance Cell and also direct States/UTs to set up the same at State level so that there could be expeditious redressal of grievances of SC/OBC students.
14.	1.56	The Committee observe that the Ministry is generating awareness about the scholarship schemes only through its weekly radio programme "SANWARTI JAYEN JEEVAN KI RAHEYEN" produced and broadcast in Hindi and 17 Regional languages through 30 Vividh Bharti, 71 Primary channels, 15 Primary Channels of North East and F.M. Stations of All India Radio. However, there is still general ignorance among the target groups especially in the rural areas that such schemes exist for them. The Committee, therefore, desire besides the above programme, the Ministry should give wide publicity about its various scholarship Schemes through National Dailies and Vernacular papers, making available details of the scholarship schemes at Panchayat level and circulating

		pamphlets in regional languages. The poor SC/OBC students in rural areas should especially be made aware of the various scholarship schemes. Awareness campaigns should be organized at the beginning of the academic year in schools, educational institutions so as to generate awareness about the schemes amongst the students.
15.	1.57	The Committee are unhappy to note that Ministry monitor the performance of its scholarship schemes through the quarterly/annual progress Reports furnished by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Committee also observe that nodal officers appointed for the States/UTs to undertake field visits for on-the-spot study for implementation of various schemes could not undertake visits on a significant scale due to pre-occupation in the Winter and Budget Session of Parliament and in processing the proposals of States/UTs and other implementing agencies. The Committee have also been informed that the Ministry implement the schemes through the State Governments/UT Administrations and the primary responsibility for monitoring the schemes at village, block and districts levels vests with the State Governments. The Committee feel that there should be a monitoring mechanism at the Central level and also spot visits are essential to ascertain the shortcomings of the schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a Monitoring Committee may be set up in the Ministry to ensure regular and strict monitoring of the implementation of the schemes and top most priority must be accorded to the periodic spot field visits by the officials concerned so as to assess the ground realities. The Committee would like the Department to consider their recommendations/suggestions with all the seriousness and provide specific response on all the issues raised above.
16.	1.139	The Committee observe that the objective of the pre-matric scholarship scheme for children of those engaged in unclean occupation is to promote education to children of scavengers, tanners, flayers etc. and to wean them away from their traditional occupation. The Committee, however, note that the number of beneficiaries under the scheme which was 7.35 lakhs in 2007-08 came down to 6.22 lakhs in 2008-09 and in 2009-10 the number of beneficiaries upto 31.12.09 has been only 4.65 lakhs. Keeping in view the importance of scheme which is aimed to assist the children of the families in the lowest strata of society in their pursuit of improving the educational status, the Committee desire the Ministry to get an evaluation done by a central agency on the impact of the

		<p>scheme and also find out reasons for declining number of beneficiaries under the scheme. There is further an urgent need to bring more awareness in the families of unclean occupations about the scheme so more and more children from these disadvantaged section are able to pursue the pre-matric education with a cushion of financial support of the Government. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to impress upon the States to give utmost importance to the effective implementation of the scheme and give intense publicity among the families engaged in unclean occupations not only through print and electronic media but officials of concerned State organizations should approach such families and motivate them to send their children to schools and take benefit of the scheme.</p>
17.	1.140	<p>The Committee are unhappy to note that under the post-matric scholarship scheme during 2007-08 whereas an amount of Rs. 87508.23 lakhs had been released to the States/UTs only a reduced amount of Rs. 64549.49 lakhs could be released to States/UTs during the year 2008-09. The Committee are also given to understand that many States did not receive any funds under the scheme during 2008-09 due to non-submission of proposals, not furnishing audited accounts/Utilization Certificates and huge unspent balances already lying with them. The Committee are not happy with the above situation and recommend the Ministry to persuade the above States to utilize the unspent amount lying with them strictly within the financial year so that fresh funds could be released to them on a regular basis. The Committee also desire the Ministry to take up the matter regarding sending of clarification on the Audit para as well as action on misutilized funds with Uttar Pradesh and Assam so that funds are released to these States without any further delay.</p>
18.	1.141	<p>The Committee observe that as per the existing provision under scholarship scheme, Book Banks are to be set up in all the Medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Law and Veterinary Degree Colleges and Institutes imparting Chartered Accountancy, MBA and alike Management courses and Polytechnics where Scheduled Caste students are in receipt of post matric scholarship. The Committee are constrained to note that as per the existing provision books are issued on the basis of sharing criterion of one set for two students. On the Book Bank facility and feasibility for providing separate sets of books to each student the Ministry have stated that primary responsibility for implementing the scheme including the Book Bank component lies with the State Governments/UTs, which</p>

		incur expenditure from their committed liability with Central Government providing the additional fund requirements over and above their committed liability. Considering the fact that text books are very important for the students who are pursuing professional courses such as Medical, Engineering, Agriculture etc. there is an urgent need making these available to all the needy students. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry should direct the State Governments to make available separate set of books for every student so that their studies are not affected.
19.	1.142	The Committee observe that the Planning Commission has agreed to conduct an All India Evaluation Study of the scheme of post-matric scholarships for SC students through programme evaluation organization in March, 2010. However, the study has not yet been conducted. The Committee, therefore, desire that Ministry should pursue the matter with the Planning Commission so that evaluation study of the post-matric scholarship scheme is conducted as early as possible.
20.	1.143	The Committee observe that the scheme of Top Class Education launched in 2007-08, provides for 1250 scholarships every year. However, the scholarships awarded during the last three years i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been 195, 378 & 541 respectively. The main reason attributed for not availing utilization of scholarship slots could be attributed to the scheme of being relatively recent origin (2007-08) and consequently inadequate awareness about it. Though the Ministry have contended that the scheme is circulated to all the selected institutions at the beginning of the year with a request to forward proposals to this Ministry, the Committee feel that wide publicity about this scheme has not been given by the States/UTs as a result most SC students are not aware of this scheme. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to impress upon States/UTs to give wide publicity of the scheme among SC students so that they apply in large numbers and full quota of scholarship slots could be availed.
21.	1.144	The Committee also observe that under the Top Class Scholarship Scheme in most cases (Engineering, Management, Medicine, Law, Fashion Technology/Design, Hotel Management and Catering, etc.) the admission is done on the basis of All India Common Entrance Tests and in some cases, like CPL training, Tata Institute of Social Science, National School of Drama, Film & Television Institute of India, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, etc. the admission is

		<p>done by the institutes on the basis of entrance test/assessment. However, there is no provision under the scheme for giving special training to students to get admissions in notified institutions. During evidence the Secretary also admitted that there is a strong need for supporting coaching facilities for SC students. The Committee feel that in the absence of any proper coaching /training to SC students, they are not able to successfully compete with general category students for admission in premier institutes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that some coaching/training be imparted to them to prepare them for entrance examination.</p>
22.	1.145	<p>The Committee are unhappy to note that under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme launched in 1954-55 only 732 students were offered awards upto 1994-95 out of which 524 students availed the benefit of the scheme. The Committee also find that for the period 1995-96 to 1997-98 no selection was made as the Committee for Non Plan Expenditure had approved the continuation of the scheme only from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 and also no selection was made during the years 2000-01 to 2003-04. The Committee also note with dismay that under the scheme targets were not always achieved. The Committee have been informed that no formal training is imparted to the selected students for admission into foreign Universities. However, an orientation Workshop is being held by the Ministry for selected students by inviting representatives from Ministry of External Affairs and selected Embassies of other Countries in India to sensitize the candidates about admission process etc. in foreign Universities. The Committee feel that holding an orientation workshop is not enough and there is a need to give proper counseling/guidance to selected students to enable them to take admission in foreign universities. The Committee therefore desire the Ministry to tie up with specialized agencies having expertise on the matter and therefore in a position to deliver the goods.</p> <p>The Committee also observe that the scheme is available only for a small number of technical courses. All Science, Humanities, Commerce and Management courses have not been included. The Committee was informed that the number of students from SC category who get admission in overseas Universities in technical courses is small and, therefore, there is not always full utilization of awards. The Committee recommend that the list of subjects for which the students may go abroad be widened and corresponding increase in number of scholarships.</p>

23.	1.146	<p>The Committee find that under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students every year 1333 fellowships are awarded for Scheduled Caste students. The Committee are constrained to note that the number of applications received under the scheme i.e. 4372 during 2006-07, 5909 during 2007-08 and 6895 during 2008-09 has been increasing while the number of awards per year has remained the same. The Committee have been informed that a proposal to increase the number of fresh fellowships per year is under consideration. Keeping in view the population of Scheduled Caste students and the number of applications rejected every year, these fellowships are not sufficient, the Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the number of fellowships may be increased immediately so that more and more number of students could get fellowships.</p>
24.	1.147	<p>The Committee note that the number of applications received is more than 5 times than the fellowships awarded under the scheme and students are selected on merit basis. The Committee observe that no relaxation is given to SC students hailing from rural areas. However, during evidence Secretary assured that they would request the UGC to give further relaxation to Scheduled Caste Students coming from rural areas. As the standard of teaching and facilities available in the rural areas are much below than that of urban areas, the Committee feel that SC students hailing from these areas need to be given some special consideration. The Committee therefore recommend the Government to consider giving suitable relaxation in percentage of marks to SC students hailing from rural areas so that they are able to get benefit of the scheme.</p>
25.	1.148	<p>The Committee observe that under the schemes of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for OBC students introduced during the year 1998-99, the actual expenditure has been constantly on the higher side exceeding the Budget Estimates/Revised Estimates. In the case of pre-matric scholarships, the actual expenditure has been high over Budget Estimates during 2006-07 and 2008-09 and in respect of post-matric scholarships, the actual expenditure has always been high over Budget Estimates during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Committee have been given to understand that the higher expenditure has been due to high demand from the State Governments. The Committee also observe that under the pre-matric scholarship for OBC students very meagre amounts i.e. Rs. 25/- from Class I to V, Rs. 40/- from Class VI to VIII and Rs. 50/- from Class IX to X and under post matric scholarship for OBC students Rs. 190/- for Group A,B,C, Rs.</p>

		<p>120 for Group D and Rs. 90/- for Group E for Day scholars are being awarded to the students which are grossly inadequate to meet the educational needs of these students. The Committee feel that for the large section of OBC students who are in dire need of financial support the existing rate of scholarships under both the heads of pre-matric and post-matric is just not sufficient and there is correspondingly a need to increase the allocation of funds under both the scholarship schemes for OBCs. The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry to examine the feasibility of increasing funds under both the schemes by seeking an enhanced allocation in the budgetary estimates during the next financial year so that the above schemes do not suffer due to paucity of funds.</p>
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