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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(2011 - 2012)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

NINETEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2012/Chaitra, 1934 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 21.3.2012

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.3.2012



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2012/Chaitra, 1934 (Saka)

CONTENTS

PAGE

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I	Report
CHAPTER II	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.
CHAPTER III	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government.
CHAPTER IV	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter- I.
CHAPTER V	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature.

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE I	Revision in the Centrally sponsored scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to Scheduled Castes.
ANNEXURE II	Revision in the Centrally sponsored scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to OBCs (PMS-OBC).
ANNEXURE III	Planning Commission letter dated 17.2.2011 regarding Recommendation of the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment – Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes/Other Backward Classes, Para 1.45.
ANNEXURE IV	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment D.O. letter dated 5.10.2010.
ANNEXURE V	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment D.O. letter dated 17.1.2011.
ANNEXURE VI	Setting up of Monitoring Committee for Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
ANNEXURE VII	Setting up of Monitoring Committee for Scholarship Schemes for Other Backward Classes implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
ANNEXURE VIII*	Changes in the Centrally sponsored scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations.
ANNEXURE IX	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment D.O. letter dated 15.2.2011.
ANNEXURE X	Minutes of the Sixth Sitting of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment held on 5.3.2012.

APPENDIX

Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment.

* Will be available in printed version.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2011-2012)**

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kameshwar Baitha
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Shri Devidhan Besra
5. Smt. Rama Devi
6. Shri Premchand Guddu
7. Dr. Manda Jagannath
8. Shri Mohan Jena
9. Shri Dinesh Kashyap
10. Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar
11. Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy
12. Shri Basori Singh Masram
13. Shri R. Dhruva Narayana
14. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
15. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh
16. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
17. Shri Kabir Suman
- *18. Smt. Usha Verma
19. Vacant
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

* Smt. Usha Verma ceased to be a Member of Committee w.e.f. 3.1.2012.

** Dr. Ram Dayal Munda was expired on 30.9.2011.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Deepak Mahna - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Anita Jain - Director
3. Shri P.C. Choulda - Deputy Secretary
4. Shri Yash Pal Sharma - Senior Executive Assistant

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Nineteenth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

2. The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 2010. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 14.9.2011. The Report was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment at their sitting held on 5.3.2012.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix**.

4. For facility of reference observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report.

5. The Committee place on record their appreciation for the valuable assistance rendered to them by the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI:

05 March, 2012

15 Phalgun, 1933 (Saka)

DARA SINGH CHAUHAN

Chairman,

Standing Committee on

Social Justice and Empowerment

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment deals with the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

1.2 The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 2010. It contained 25 observations/recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the observations/recommendations have been examined and are categorized as under: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:
Paragraph Nos. 1.45, 1.56, 1.57, 1.139, 1.140, 1.141, 1.142, 1.143, 1.144 and 1.145.
(Total 10 - Chapter II)
- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:
-Nil-
(Chapter III)
- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and which need to be reiterated in Chapter I:
Paragraph Nos. 1.44, 1.47, 1.48, 1.146 and 1.148.
(Total 5 - Chapter IV)
- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are of interim in nature:
Paragraph Nos. 1.43, 1.46, 1.49, 1.50, 1.51, 1.52, 1.53, 1.54, 1.55, and 1.147.
(Total 10 - Chapter V)

1.3 The Committee desire that action taken replies on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final action taken replies in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter -V of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest and in any case not later than three months of the presentation of the Report.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with some of the replies received from the Government which need reiteration or merit comments.

A. Revision of Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for SC/OBC students on the basis of consumer price index.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 1.44)

1.5 The Committee were unhappy to note that there was 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 had been informed that the revision was under consideration and was proposed to be effected by the end of the year. Keeping in view the considerable price hike, the Committee felt that there was 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 had been left out of the ambit of scholarship scheme. Since these scholarship schemes empowered and sustained 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 had, therefore, strongly recommended 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 had further desired 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 will suitably be increased.

1.6 The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under :-

"The status of revision of Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for SCs and OBCs is given below :-

- (i) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes: The scheme has been revised with effect from 1st July, 2010, vide this Ministry's Order dated 31.12.2010 (copy of the Order is at [Annexure-I](#)). The Scheme has been revised so as to:-
 - raise the parental income ceiling for eligibility from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.2.00 lakh,
 - rationalize the grouping of Courses, and
 - upward revision of maintenance and other allowances by approximately 60%.
- (ii) Post Matric Scholarship to OBC students BE allocation under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students in 2009-10 was Rs.135.00 crore, which was enhanced to Rs. 350.00 crore and Rs. 535.00 crore in 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. In the light of the enhanced allocation, the scheme has been revised w.e.f.

1.7.2011 (Annexure II) to raise the income ceiling and maintenance and other allowances".

1.7 Keeping in view the fact that substantial delay has occurred in the revision of Post-matric Scholarship schemes for SC/OBC students, the Committee had earlier recommended the Ministry to expedite the process of revising the schemes so that SC/OBC students are able to get the benefits at enhanced rates from the current academic year itself. The Committee had also desired that the scholarship rates be linked with the consumer price index which should be reviewed at the beginning of each academic year so that in the event of increase in price index, the scholarship rates were suitably increased. From the action taken reply furnished by the Ministry, the Committee note that the Post-matric scholarship schemes for SC and OBC students have since been revised w.e.f. July, 2010 and July, 2011 respectively. The Committee are however constrained to observe that revision in scholarship rates specially in the maintenance allowance have fallen far short of the desired level. Though there has been 60% increase in the monthly maintenance rates for SC students i.e. Rs. 550, Rs.530 and Rs.300 for day scholars and Rs. 1200, Rs. 820 and Rs. 570 for hostellers for Group I, II & III, the revised rates are still too meager to give any worthwhile financial support to SC students. In case of OBC students, the revised monthly maintenance rates i.e. Rs. 350, Rs. 335, Rs. 210 and Rs. 160 for day scholars and Rs. 750, Rs. 510 , Rs. 400 and Rs. 260 for hostellers for Group A, B, C, and D are also low. While expressing their displeasure the Committee once again reiterate their earlier recommendation and re-emphasize that the scholarship rates should 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. The Committee further desire that scholarships for all students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Class should be brought at par in all the schemes run by the Ministry.

B. Expansion of Scope of new Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme and give suitable incentive to all States till the implementation of scheme at Central level from Class I.

(Recommendation Sl. Nos. 5 & 6, Para Nos. 1.47 & 1.48)

1.8 The Committee had observed that Pre-Matric scholarship scheme for SC students which could be instrumental into reducing the dropout rate was limited only to students of parents engaged in unclean occupations. The Committee had therefore desired that the Ministry should 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 could be fully implemented at the earliest or in the beginning of 12th plan. The Committee had further desired that the Government should 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.

1.9 In their Action Taken Reply on the above recommendations the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment have informed the Committee as under:-

1. "With a view to bring down the dropout rate of SC children, in general, a new Centrally-sponsored "Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students" studying in Classes IX & X has been announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech, 2011-12. This would benefit an estimated 43 lakh SC students. An allocation of Rs.200 crore has been provided for this purpose in this Ministry's budget for the year 2011-12 which will need to be augmented. Further necessary action in this regard is being taken".
2. "It may not be possible to provide any incentive/financial assistance to States for implementing their own Pre-matric scholarship schemes. However, launch of a

new Centrally-sponsored "Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students" studying in Classes IX & X is already under consideration of the Government".

1.10 The Committee had recommended 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. Similarly, the Committee had also desired that 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. The Committee note from the action taken reply that the Ministry have introduced the Pre-matric scholarship scheme for SC students during the current financial year. However, the Committee are given to understand that under the new scheme, scholarships are confined to class IX and X students only. The Committee have also been informed by the Ministry that it may not be possible to provide any incentive/financial assistance to States for implementing their own Pre-matric scholarship schemes. The Committee feel that since the dropout of students is more in lower classes, the new scheme aiming at awarding scholarship to only class IX and X students will not fully serve the purpose and there is a genuine need to provide scholarship to all pre-matric students i.e. from class I to X. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and also as recommended in 15th Report on Demands for Grants (2011-12) that the scope of the new Pre-matric scholarship for SC students should be expanded in order to cover all students from Class I to Class X and also to give suitable incentive to all

States to implement Pre-matric scholarship schemes at their own levels till the implementation of scheme at Central level from Class I.

C. Implementation aspects of Scholarship Schemes

(Recommendation Sl. Nos. 7 to 13 and Para Nos. 1.49 to 1.55)

1.11 The Committee in recommendations Nos. 7 to 13 regarding implementation aspects of Scholarship Schemes had made the following recommendations:-

- (i) The Ministry should sensitize the States to make payments of scholarships through Post Office/Bank and vigorously pursue the opening of bank accounts of all the beneficiaries within a definite time frame.
- (ii) The Ministry should take up the matter of timely payment of scholarships with State Governments at Chief Secretary level and the scholarships should be paid Quarterly positively beginning with first installment immediately after the admission.
- (iii) The Ministry should 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 instead of 10 months.
- (iv) The Ministry should accord top priority to development of suitable e-governance module so that e-payment system of scholarship soon becomes a reality.
- (v) The Ministry should 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.
- (vi) 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.
- (vii) The Ministry should 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.

1.12 In their Action Taken Reply on the above recommendations the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have informed the Committee as under:-

(i) The Ministry is pursuing the matter with defaulting States/UTs on regular basis to ensure that a uniform system is adopted throughout the country at the earliest. Secretary (SJ&E) has written to State Governments/UTs on 5-10-2010 (Annexure-IV) and again on 17-1-2011 (Annexure-V) in this regard.

(ii) Secretary (SJ&E) has taken up the matter at Chief Secretary level vide his demi-official letters dated 5-10-2010 and 17-1-2011 inter-alia impressing upon them to ensure regular disbursement of scholarships to the students (Annexure-IV & V).

(iii) The State Governments/UTs at Chief Secretary level have been requested to ensure disbursement of maintenance allowance to the students for 12 months under the Scheme of "Post-Matric Scholarship for SC students", vide Secretary (SJ&E)'s demi-official letter dated 17.1.2011. (Annexure-V).

(iv) The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh demonstrated their e-payment systems during the Conference held October-November, 2010. All other States have shown their willingness to implement the system in their respective States. The matter shall be pursued for expediting action on part of the remaining States. Secretary (SJ&E) has also taken up the matter at Chief Secretary level vide his demi-official letter dated 17-1-2011 (Annexure-V) inter-alia requesting them to implement e-payment of scholarships in their respective State at the earliest.

(v) This Ministry has issued a suitable advisory to all the State Governments/UTs to issue necessary instructions to private institutions not to demand tuition fee from SC and OBC students who fulfill the eligibility criteria for scholarship schemes, but charge it from State Governments as was being done by Government institutions. They have been requested to ensure compliance of these instructions vide Secretary (SJ&E)'s demi-official letter dated 17-1-2011 addressed to the Chief Secretaries of the States/ Administrators of UTs. (Annexure-V).

(vi) Secretary (SJ&E) has taken up the matter regarding simplification of procedure for issue of caste certificate to SC/OBC students with the State Governments/UTs at

Chief Secretary/Administrator level vide his demi-official letter dated 17-1-2011 (Annexure-V).

(vii) The Ministry has already taken up the matter with all the State Governments/UTs at Chief Secretary/Administrator level vide Secretary (SJ&E)'s d.o. letter dated 5-10-2010 (Annexure-IV) and 17.01.2011 (Annexure-V) to set up Grievance Redressal Cells. The States have been requested to designate Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) at the State and District levels to redress students' scholarship-related grievances, publicize their details widely and give suitable instructions to them to implement a comprehensive scholarship grievance redressal system. The State Governments of Kerala, Haryana, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura have confirmed suitable action in this regard.

1.13 Having carefully considered the Action Taken Replies of the Ministry on the recommendations of the Committee on opening of individual accounts of students in post-offices/banks for disbursement of scholarships, timely payment of scholarships, ensuring payment of scholarship amount for 12 months, implementation of e-payment of scholarships, issuing 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, simplification of procedure for issue of caste certificate to SC/OBC students and setting up of Grievance Redressal Cells, the Committee feel that concrete steps have not been taken for implementation of the above issues. The Committee have been given to understand that the Ministry vide their demi official letter dated 17th January, 2011 have written to all the State Governments asking them to send a point wise report on action taken/being taken by 15.2.2011 along with copies of relevant instructions issued by the State Governments. Though the Action Taken replies were submitted by the Ministry in September, 2011 six months after the last date of the instructions given to the States, the Committee

have not been informed of the replies received from the State Governments regarding Action Taken on the various issues. The Committee feel that the Ministry can not wash their hand by simply writing letters to the State Governments. The Committee take a serious view of this and once again reiterate that realization of the above matters may be taken up at highest level at their review meetings. Concrete steps/action taken in this regard may be intimated to the Committee within three months of the presentation of the Report. The Committee further desire that all transactions in regard to payment of scholarships should be through Bank/Post Office Accounts and there should be no cash transactions.

**D. Taking up positive steps for further increase of fellowships under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students
Recommendation (Sl. No. 23, Para No. 1.146)**

1.14 The Committee had found that under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students every year 1333 fellowships were awarded for Scheduled Caste students. The Committee were 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 had been increasing while the number of awards per year had remained the same. The Committee had been informed that a proposal to increase the number of fresh fellowships per year was under consideration. Keeping in view the population of Scheduled Caste students and the number of applications rejected every year, these fellowships were not sufficient, the Committee had, therefore, strongly recommended that the number of fellowships might be increased immediately so that more and more number of students could get fellowships.

1.15 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have *inter-alia* stated:-

"The number of fresh fellowships to be awarded under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC students has been increased from 1333 to 2000 each year with effect from 1-4-2010".

1.16 Keeping in view the increasing number of applications for fellowships under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme being received from SC students every year and the number of applications rejected every year and the number of fellowships remaining the same, the Committee had strongly recommended that the number of fellowships should be increased so that more and more number of students could be benefitted. The Committee have been informed that the number of fresh fellowships to be awarded under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC students has been increased from 1333 to 2000 each year with effect from 1-4-2010. The Committee feel that this increase is not up to the desired level keeping in view the fact that large number of applications are rejected every year. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend to the Ministry to take positive steps for further increasing the number of fellowships to at least upto 6000 so that none of the deserving SC student is deprived of fellowship. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Ministry in this regard.

E. Examining the feasibility of increasing funds under both the schemes and early revision of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students

Recommendation (Sl. No. 25, Para No. 1.148)

1.17 The Committee had observed that under the schemes of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for OBC students introduced during the year 1998-99, the actual expenditure had been constantly on the higher side exceeding the Budget Estimates/Revised Estimates. In the case of pre-matric scholarships, the actual

expenditure had been high over Budget Estimates during 2006-07 and 2008-09 and in respect of post-matric scholarships, the actual expenditure had always been high over Budget Estimates during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Committee had been given to understand that the higher expenditure had been due to high demand from the State Governments. The Committee had also observed that under the pre-matric scholarship for OBC students very meager 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 were being awarded to the students which were grossly inadequate to meet the educational needs of these students. The Committee had felt that for the large section of OBC students who were in dire need of financial support the existing rate of scholarships under both the heads of pre-matric and post-matric was just not sufficient and there was correspondingly a need to increase the allocation of funds under both the scholarship schemes for OBCs. The Committee had, therefore, urged 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 did not suffer due to paucity of funds.

1.18 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under :-

"The PMS-OBC Scheme has been revised with effect from 01.7.2011 to raise the income ceiling and maintenance and other allowances. (Copy of Order is at [Annexure II](#)) The allocation under PMS for OBCs has increased by about 53% from Rs.350 crore in 2010-2011 to Rs.535 crore in 2011-2012. This increase is still far below the actual requirement of States for meeting the full demand of OBC students. This issue is also being deliberated upon by the Working Group for the XII Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission and its recommendations would be placed before the Planning Commission.

The Ministry has regularly been taking up the matter of enhancement of plan budget of schemes for welfare of OBCs including Pre-Matric Scholarship for

OBCs. Due to budgetary constraints, it has not been possible to revise the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs, so far".

1.19 The Committee had urged the Ministry to examine the feasibility of increasing funds under the schemes of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for OBC students 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. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated that the allocation under PMS for OBCs had increased by about 53% from Rs. 350 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 535 crore in 2011-12. However, the Ministry have also admitted that this increase is still far below the actual requirement of States for meeting the full demand of OBC students. The Committee have also been informed that due to budgetary constraints, it has not been possible to revise the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs, so far. The Committee do not accept the reply of Government and reiterate their earlier recommendation and recommend that the Ministry to examine the feasibility of increasing funds under both the schemes and take immediate steps to revise the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, Para No. 1.45)

2.1 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.

Reply of the Government

2.2 The recommendation of the Committee for setting up of a “National Scholarship Authority” has already been taken up with the Member-Secretary, Planning Commission and Secretary, Ministry of Human Resources Development on 3.1.2011 with a request to forward their responses to this Ministry in a time-bound manner.

Planning Commission vide its letter dated 17-02-2011 (Annexure-III) has informed that in its Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Year Plan (2007-12), it has already been emphasized that there is a need to harmonize the norms of all the scholarship schemes provided to offer the same benefit in different contexts. The Planning Commission has taken note of the advice of the Committee regarding setting up of a National Scholarship Authority and other concerned issues. These issues will be placed in the Working Groups and the Steering Committees on Empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities for Twelfth Five Year Plan (2010-17) and an appropriate view will be taken accordingly.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para No. 1.56)

2.3 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.

Reply of the Government

2.4 During the year 2010-11, The Ministry have released advertisements in Hindi, English and regional languages on all India basis inviting applications under the scheme of National Overseas Scholarship/Passage Grants for SCs etc., and scheme of free coaching for SCs and OBCs students. Besides, Ministry has also released advertisement on the revised Post Matric Scholarship for SCs in the month of January, 2011 in more than 300 news papers in Hindi, English and regional languages notifying the revision of rates and parental income ceiling. Information about the revised scheme has also been placed on the website of Ministry. Further, in June, 2011 the Ministry has published full page advertisement in prominent news paper publicizing 3 important schemes for S.C. students viz. (i) Post-matric Scholarship scheme (ii) "Top Class Education" scheme and (iii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship scheme.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para No. 1.57)

2.5 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 implements 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.

Reply of the Government

2.6 The Ministry implements its **scholarship** schemes through State Governments/UT Administrations, and monitors the progress of implementation of schemes/programmes by them. Apart from monitoring the performance of schemes through the quarterly/annual progress reports furnished by the State Governments/UT Administrations, the following steps are also taken:

The Ministry takes the following steps for proper implementation of, inter-alia, its scholarship schemes:

- i. The Ministry has constituted two Committees for regular monitoring of following Scholarship Schemes pertaining to SC & OBCs, respectively:

Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes

- a) Post-matric scholarship for SCs
- b) Pre-matric scholarship for children of SCs engaged in 'unclean' occupation
- c) National Overseas Scholarship for SCs, etc.
- d) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs

Scholarship Schemes for OBCs

- a) Post matric scholarship for BCs
- b) Pre matric scholarship for BCs

Orders constituting Monitoring Committees as above are enclosed at **Annexure VI & VII** respectively.

- ii. For the effective monitoring of all the schemes, Ministry has designated Bureau Heads and Divisional Heads as Nodal Officers for various regions/States.
- iii. Release of grants to State Governments during a year are made only on receipt of audited Utilization Certificates in respect of previous grants sanctioned which have become due.

Ministry also organizes Annual Conference of State Welfare Secretaries/Ministers wherein, inter alia, all the schemes of the Ministry, including scholarship schemes, are reviewed. States/UTs have also been advised to strengthen their monitoring mechanism.

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. Eleven visits have been carried out by the Nodal Officers in the current financial year to various States/UTs allotted to them, so far. The Nodal Officers are also expected to undertake spot visits and interact, inter-alia, with beneficiaries of scholarship wherever during their tours.

The Ministry also sponsors evaluation studies from time to time through independent evaluation agencies to check whether their benefits reach the target groups.

Constitution of Monitoring Committee at the State & District levels for major Schemes of the Ministry is under active consideration.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16, Para No. 1. 139)

2.7 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 lakh in 2007-08 came down to 6.22 lakh in 2008-09 and in 2009-10 the number of beneficiaries up to 31.12.09 has been only 4.65 lakh. 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 this 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.

Reply of the Government

2.8 The Scheme of "Pre-matric scholarship for children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations" is in operation since 1977-78. The number of beneficiaries covered under

the scheme during last three years and anticipated during the current year is given below:-

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Number of beneficiaries covered (in lakh)
1	2007-08	7.35
2	2008-09	6.22
3	2009-10	7.06
4	2010-11	7.00 (provisional)

The provisions of the scheme have been liberalized with effect from 1-4-2008 to ensure that more and more students from this target group get enrolled and avail its benefit. Information about the scheme is publicized through the weekly radio programme of the Ministry named "Sanwari Jaayin Jeevan Ki Raahein". It is also being publicized through the Ministry's website.

Secretary (SJ&E) has demi-officially written to Chief Secretaries on 05.10.2010 requesting them, inter-alia, to:-

- i) ensure regular payment of scholarship money to students on monthly basis;
- ii) ensure disbursement of scholarship directly into the bank/post-office accounts of the students;
- iii) set-up grievance redressal mechanism for scholarship related complaints.

Further, as recommended by the Committee, all State Governments/UTs were again requested vide D.O. letter dated 1-2-2011 to publicize the scheme extensively and take proactive action to approach such families and motivate them to send their children to school.

The above Scheme has now been further modified w.e.f. 1.7.2011 vide this Ministry's letter dated 8.6.2011 (**Annexure VIII**) doing away with the requirement of seeking certificates every year regarding the Child's parent being engaged in manual scavenging. With this, Children of rehabilitated man, scavengers will also now be able to avail of the Scholarship. Further, Secretary, SJ&E, has vide his d.o. letter dated 17.8. 2011, addressed to the Chief Secretaries of 15 Major States requested them to, inter alia, take the followings steps urgently for optimum utilization of the Scheme in the State: -

- (i) Give wide publicity to the Scheme through print and audio-visual media.
- (ii) Specifically bring it to the notice of heads of all Schools having classes upto Class X, and ask them to ensure that no eligible student studying in their schools remains without this Scholarship.
- (iii) Direct officers of Education Department, teachers and others concerned to pro-actively conduct special enrolment drive for children of the above category, especially in bastis of the concerned communities, so that no child remains out of school, and all can complete education at least upto the secondary level, availing of the above Scholarship.
- (iv) Have the above scholarship Scheme implemented synergistically with SSA, RMSA, KGBV, etc. to maximize enrolment, retention and achievement levels of children from families engaged in "unclean occupations".
- (v) Give suitable directions to Distt. Collectors and Urban local bodies also in this behalf. Of the above 15, attention of Chief Secretaries of 3 States (UP, Karnataka and Jharkhand) have also been drawn to the fact that their States

have not been availing of Central assistance under the Scheme in the XI Plan, and they have been requested to take corrective steps in this regard.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 1. 140)

2.9 The Committee are unhappy to note that under the post-matric scholarship scheme during 2007-08 whereas an amount of Rs. 87508.23 lakh had been released to the States/UTs only a reduced amount of Rs. 64549.49 lakh 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.

Reply of the Government

2.10 The matter is being taken up regularly with all the State Governments/UTs Administrations, including those who have unspent balance of Central assistance available with them or those not getting regular audit of expenditure under the Scholarship scheme done, to implement the Scheme in a transparent and effective manner, so that the beneficiaries are not put to any hardship.

The issue of Audit objections in the implementation of “Post-Matric Scholarship scheme for SC students” was followed up with State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Consequently, it is one of the first States which started disbursement of scholarship amount through accounts in banks/post-offices. Uttar Pradesh has fully computerized the implementation of this scheme and has started ‘on-line’ processing of scholarships. As a result, Central assistance of Rs.19967.13 lakh was released to the State during 2009-10. The due Central assistance of Rs.37256.00 lakh has been released to it during 2010-11. After the revision of the Scheme in December, 2010, ad-hoc central assistance of Rs.12548 lakh was released to Uttar Pradesh to meet increased financial requirements. During 2011-12, an ad-hoc central assistance of Rs.21420.00 lakh has already been released.

In a similar manner, after receipt of requisite documents from Assam, the Ministry was able to release Rs.1014.99 lakh to it during 2009-10, including arrears for 2008-09. During 2010-11, central assistance of Rs.504.9 lakh has been released to Assam to meet increased financial requirements. During 2011-12, an ad-hoc central assistance of Rs.250.00 lakh has already been released.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18, Para No. 1. 141)

2.11 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.

Reply of the Government

2.12 As per the “Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students”, one set of books is already being provided to students in the following courses:

- i) Post Graduate courses in Medical, Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary courses and such other technical / alike courses as are approved by the Universities / institutes of higher learning.
- ii) Law courses, LLB (3years and 5 years) LLM (2 years)
- iii) Chartered Accountancy (intermediate and final)
- iv) MBA (2 years) and similar courses
- v) Bio-sciences

However, the scheme currently envisages provision of one set of books for two students in the following courses:

- i) Degree courses in Medical/Engineering
- ii) Degree courses in Veterinary
- iii) Degree courses in Agriculture
- iv) Polytechnics

Recommendation of the Committee would be kept in view in regard to courses mentioned in para 2 above while revising the Scheme during XII Plan period.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 19, Para No. 1.142)

2.13 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.

Reply of the Government

2.14 The Development Evaluation Advisory Committee (DAEC) of Planning Commission in a meeting headed by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, on 19-11-2009, clubbed the evaluation of the Scheme of Post matric scholarship schemes for SC, ST and OBC students, and assigned its evaluation and impact assessment to the Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission.

In order to monitor and supervise the study, PEO constituted a Consultancy Evaluation cum Monitoring Committee (CEMC) headed by Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, Director, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi. The officers from concerned Ministries are also its members. The study is being outsourced soon to empanelled research institutes by Planning Commission.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 20, Para No. 1. 143)

2.15 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.

Reply of the Government

2.16 Wide publicity to the Scheme of Top Class Education was given through advertisements in more than 300 Newspapers in Hindi, English and Regional Languages on 17.6. 2011. There will be more such advertisement in future. Details of

the Scheme are also uploaded on the web site of the Ministry, which is 'disabled friendly'.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21, Para No. 1.144)

2.17 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.

Reply of the Government

2.18 A Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit for the SCs Students is being implemented since 2002-03. Under this scheme 100% central assistance is provided to states/UTs for arranging coaching for SC/ST students studying in class 9th to 12th. While remedial coaching aims at removing deficiencies in school subjects, special coaching is provided with a view to prepare students for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses like Engineering and Medical.

The main objective of the scheme is to upgrade the merits of SC/ST students by providing with facilities for all round development through education in Residential School.

- a. Making up any academic deficiencies.
- b. Facilitating their entry into professional courses by upgrading their merit so that they can compete
- c. Admission to higher education courses
- d. Generating self confidence.

The existing on-going “Central Sector Scheme of Free Coaching for SC & OBC Students” provides for coaching to SC and OBC students for the following examinations:

- i. Group A and B examinations conducted by UPSC, State Public Service Commissions, Railway, SSC etc.
- ii. Officer Grade Examination of Bank/Insurance companies and
- iii. Finishing Job Courses/job oriented courses.

The scheme is under revision and it is, *inter-alia*, proposed to include coaching for the following entrance examinations within its scope:

- i. Engineering entrance examinations conducted by IITs (IIT-JEE), CBSE (AIEEE), and State Governments/ UTs.
- ii. Medical entrance examinations conducted by CBSE (AIPMT) and State Governments/UTs.
- iii. Entrance examinations for Management, (eg. CAT)

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 22, Para 1.145)

2.19 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 observes 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 recommends that the list of subjects for which the students may go abroad be widened and corresponding increase in number of scholarships.

Reply of the Government

2.20 The number of subjects covered under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme has already been increased for the selection year 2010-11. The subjects for which this scholarship can be availed were earlier limited to only advanced Engineering subjects. This list has been expanded from 2010-11 so as to cover the following disciplines:-

- a. Medicine,
- b. Pure Sciences,
- c. Engineering,
- d. Agricultural Sciences and
- e. Management.

A Committee has been set up to review the National Overseas Scholarship scheme. The XII Plan Working Group set up by the Planning Commission is also discussing the subject at length and will make recommendations.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

CHAPTER – III
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

- Nil -

CHAPTER – IV
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED AND HAVE BEEN COMMENTED
UPON BY THE COMMITTEE IN CHAPTER - I

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 1.44)

4.1 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.

Reply of the Government

4.2 The status of revision of Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for SCs and OBCs is given below:

- (i) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme to Students belonging to Scheduled Castes: The scheme has been revised with effect from 1st July, 2010, vide this Ministry's Order dated 31.12.2010 (copy of the Order is at **Annexure-I**). The Scheme has been revised so as to:-
- raise the parental income ceiling for eligibility from Rs.1.00 lakh to Rs.2.00 lakh,
 - rationalize the grouping of Courses, and
 - upward revision of maintenance and other allowances by approximately 60%.
- (ii) Post Matric Scholarship to OBC students BE allocation under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students in 2009-10 was Rs.135.00 crore, which was enhanced to Rs.350.00 crore and Rs. 535.00 crore in 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. In the light of the enhanced allocation, the scheme has been revised w.e.f. 1.7.2011 (**Annexure II**) to raise the income ceiling and maintenance and other allowances.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.7 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para No. 1.47)

4.3 The Committee note that according to selected Educational statistics 2006-07, published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the dropout rate for SC 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 dropout 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 those 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.

Reply of the Government

4.4 With a view to bring down the dropout rate of SC children, in general, a new Centrally-sponsored "Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students" studying in Classes IX & X has been announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech, 2011-12. This would benefit an estimated 43 lakh SC students. An allocation

of Rs.200 crore has been provided for this purpose in this Ministry's budget for the year 2011-12 which will need to be augmented. Further necessary action in this regard is being taken.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.10 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para No. 1.48)

4.5 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 dropout 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.

Reply of the Government

4.6 It may not be possible to provide any incentive/financial assistance to States for implementing their own Pre-matric scholarship schemes. However, launch of a new Centrally-sponsored "Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students" studying in Classes IX & X is already under consideration of the Government.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.10 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 23, Para No. 1. 146)

4.7 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.

Reply of the Government

4.8 The number of fresh fellowships to be awarded under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC students has been increased from 1333 to 2000 each year with effect from 1-4-2010.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.16 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 25, Para No. 1. 148)

4.9 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 meager 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.

Reply of the Government

4.10 The PMS-OBC Scheme has been revised with effect from 01.7.2011 to raise the income ceiling and maintenance and other allowances. (Copy of Order is at **Annexure II**) The allocation under PMS for OBCs has increased by about 53% from Rs.350 crore in 2010-2011 to Rs.535 crore in 2011-2012. This increase is still far below the actual requirement of States for meeting the full demand of OBC students. This issue is also being deliberated upon by the Working Group for the XII Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission and its recommendations would be placed before the Planning Commission.

The Ministry has regularly been taking up the matter of enhancement of plan budget of schemes for welfare of OBCs including Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs. Due to budgetary constraints, it has not been possible to revise the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs, so far.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.19 of Chapter – I of the Report)

CHAPTER – V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE INTERIM IN NATURE

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, Para No. 1.43)

5.1 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 has 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.

Reply of the Government

5.2 The Ministry has been pursuing with the Planning Commission from the beginning of the XI Five Year Plan i.e. from 2007 for higher allocation for its various schemes including scholarship schemes. Due to the persistent efforts of the Ministry, the plan outlay of the Ministry increased by 80% from Rs 2500 crore in 2009-10 to Rs 4500 crore in 2010-11 and further to Rs 5375 crore in 2011-12. As a result, allocation under various scholarship schemes has increased, as indicated below:

BE for Scholarship Schemes of the Ministry (Rs. in Crore)		
2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1102	2375	3043
(3%)	(115.5%)	(28.2%)
Figures in the Bracket indicates the percentage increase over the previous year		

The status/position with regard to the revision of Scholarship schemes for SCs and OBCs, other than Post Matric Scholarship Schemes, is given below:

(i) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs

This scheme was launched in 2005-06 *and* financial assistance was being provided each year for 1333 Research Fellowships to Scheduled Caste students pursuing M. Phil., Ph.D. and equivalent courses. The following important changes have been made in the scheme from 2010-11:-

1) Number of fellowships

The number of new fellowships to be awarded each year has been increased from 1333 to 2000 to benefit more Scheduled Caste students.

2) Rates of fellowship

The rates of fellowship for JRF and SRF will be at par with the UGC fellowships. Rates of fellowship under the scheme have been upwardly revised with effect from 01-04-2010 to annul the inflationary effect and make the fellowship more beneficial.

The revised rates of fellowship under the scheme are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Stream	Monthly Rate of fellowship (amount in Rupees)			
		J.R.F.		S.R.F.	
		Pre-revised	Revised	Pre-revised	Revised
1	Science, Humanities and Social Sciences	12,000	16,000	14,000	18,000
2	Engineering and Technology	14,000	18,000	15,000	20,000

(ii) Top Class Education Scheme for SCs

There are 182 institutes of excellence spread all over the country in the list of identified institutes. Five new institution namely, i) IIT- Mandi, IIT- Indore, IIM- Raipur, IIM -Rohtak, and IIM- Ranchi have been added in the list during 2010-11. Notified institutes include all IIMs, IITs, NITs (earlier known as RECs), Commercial Pilot License training institutes and reputed Medical/Law and other institutes of excellence. The notified institutes are allotted 12 awards/scholarships each, whereas the Commercial Pilot License training institutes are allotted 2 awards/seats each. Courses of study covered are Engineering, Medicine/Dentistry, Law, Management, Hotel Management, Fashion Technology and other streams.

(iii) National Overseas Scholarship for SCs

The important changes introduced in various components of the scheme with effect from the year 2007-08 include the following:

- The income ceiling from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians has been raised from Rs. 18000/- per month to Rs. 25,000/- per month.
- The number of awards has been enhanced from 20 to 30 from the selection year 2007-08 onwards.
- 30% of the awards for each year have been earmarked for women candidates from the selection year 2007-2008. If unutilized by women candidates, the awards would be available for male candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans.
- The rates of various components of scholarship have been enhanced with effect from 9.7.2007.

The specified fields of study under the scheme have been revised for the selection year 2010-11 in order to broaden the scope and benefit more students, and following disciplines have been covered under the scheme:

- a. Medicine,
- b. Pure Sciences,
- c. Engineering,
- d. Agricultural Sciences; and
- e. Management.

A Committee has been constituted on 20.6.2010 to recommend further changes in the scheme and is expected to submit its report shortly.

(iv) Pre-matric scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupation”

The Scheme has been partially modified with effect from 1-7-2011. The ‘Object’ and ‘Conditions of eligibility’ have been modified in such a manner to do away with the condition which restricts the Scholarship to the Children of only existing manual scavengers. These changes have been communicated to all the State Governments/UTs vide Ministry’s letter F. No. 11014/28/2007-SCD-V dated 8-6-2011 with the request to publicize the above changes widely. More students are likely to be benefitted after these changes.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para No. 1.46)

5.3 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.

Reply of the Government

5.4 The issue of revision of number of these scholarships and their rates is under consideration of the Ministry.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 1.49)

5.5 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 sensitize the States about the same and vigorously pursue the opening of bank accounts of all the beneficiaries within a definite time frame.

Reply of the Government

5.6 All the States/UTs have been consistently advised to streamline the disbursement mechanism and ensure that scholarships are given to the beneficiaries directly through their individual accounts in Banks/ Post Offices. Presently, 10 State Governments viz. Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Tripura, Orissa, Haryana, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat have confirmed disbursement of scholarship through accounts in banks/post offices under the scheme of "Post Matric scholarship for SC students". Other Six State Governments viz. Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim and Karnataka have also issued instructions for implementing this system. Under the Post Matric scholarship scheme for OBC students

States of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tripura, Goa and Manipur have informed that they have introduced system of payment of scholarships through Banks/ECS. Other States have issued instructions to open accounts in Bank/Post Office.

The Ministry is pursuing the matter with defaulting States/UTs on regular basis to ensure that a uniform system is adopted throughout the country at the earliest. Secretary (SJ&E) has written to State Governments/UTs on 5-10-2010 ([Annexure-IV](#)) and again on 17-1-2011 ([Annexure-V](#)) in this regard. This matter was also emphasized during the Regional Conferences of the Principal Secretaries of the Social Welfare Departments of the States in October and November, 2010 as well as in the Social Welfare Ministers' Conference in New Delhi in June 2011.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 1.50)

5.7 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.

Reply of the Government

5.8 Secretary (SJ&E) has taken up the matter at Chief Secretary level vide his demi-official letters dated 5-10-2010 and 17-1-2011 inter-alia impressing upon them to ensure regular disbursement of scholarships to the students (Annexure-IV & V).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No. 1.51)

5.9 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.

Reply of the Government

5.10 The State Governments/UTs at Chief Secretary level have been requested to ensure disbursement of maintenance allowance to the students for 12 months under the Scheme of “Post-Matric Scholarship for SC students”, vide Secretary (SJ&E)’s demi-official letter dated 17.1.2011 (Annexure-V).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10, Para No. 1.52)

5.11 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.

Reply of the Government

5.12 To promote the e-payment system, the matter was taken up with the State Governments in the Conference of Principal Secretaries of the Social Welfare Departments of the States, held during October-November, 2010. The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh demonstrated their e-payment systems during this Conference. All other States have shown their willingness to implement the system in their respective States. The matter shall be pursued for expediting action on part of the remaining States. Secretary (SJ&E) has also taken up

the matter at Chief Secretary level vide his demi-official letter dated 17-1-2011 (Annexure-V) inter-alia requesting them to implement e-payment of scholarships in their respective State at the earliest.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 1.53)

5.13 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.

Reply of the Government

5.14 This Ministry has issued a suitable advisory to all the State Governments/UTs to issue necessary instructions to private institutions not to demand tuition fee from SC and OBC students who fulfill the eligibility criteria for scholarship schemes, but charge it from State Governments as was being done by Government institutions. They have been requested to ensure compliance of these instructions vide Secretary (SJ&E)'s

demi-official letter dated 17-1-2011 addressed to the Chief Secretaries of the States/ Administrators of UTs. (Annexure-V).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para No. 1.54)

5.15 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.

Reply of the Government

5.16 Secretary (SJ&E) has taken up the matter regarding simplification of procedure for issue of caste certificate to SC/OBC students with the State Governments/UTs at Chief Secretary/Administrator level vide his demi-official letter dated 17-1-2011 (Annexure-V).

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para No. 1.55)

5.17 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.

Reply of the Government

5.18 Whenever individual complaints regarding delay in disbursement of scholarship etc. are received by the Ministry, the matter is taken up with the concerned State Government/UT. The Ministry has already taken up the matter with all the State Governments/UTs at Chief Secretary/Administrator level vide Secretary (SJ&E)'s d.o. letter dated 5-10-2010 (**Annexure-IV**) and 17.01.2011 (**Annexure-V**) to set up Grievance Redressal Cells. The States have been requested to designate Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) at the State and District levels to redress students' scholarship-related grievances, publicize their details widely and give suitable instructions to them to implement a comprehensive scholarship grievance redressal system. The State Governments of Kerala, Haryana, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura have confirmed suitable action in this regard.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 1.13 of Chapter – I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 24, Para No. 1. 147)

5.19 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.

Reply of the Government

5.20 University Grants Commission (UGC), which is the implementing agency of the Scheme, has been requested to examine the recommendation and convey its views for further necessary action, based on relevant data, vide Joint Secretary's d.o. letter dated F.No.16015/01/2010–SCD-V dated 15-2-2011 (Annexure- IX) Further action will be taken on receipt of UGC's response.

(Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment O.M. No. 1-10/2010/(PS)/PREM dated 20.10.2011).

NEW DELHI
05 March, 2012
15 Phalguna, 1933 (Saka)

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

File No.11017/01/2008-SCD-V
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated : 31st December ,2010

To

Secretaries in-Charge of SC Welfare, All States/UTs

Subject: Revision in the Centrally sponsored scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to Scheduled Castes.

Sir,

The Government of India has been implementing the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes since 1944. It aims to provide financial assistance to students belonging to Scheduled Castes for pursuing post-matriculation courses through recognized institutions. Under the Scheme, Central assistance is provided on 100% basis to all States/UTs over and above their respective "committed liability" except in the case of the 8 North Eastern States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim), which are exempted from committed liability, and were therefore provided 100% assistance without deducting any committed liability.

2. Components of the Scheme include:
- (i) maintenance allowance;
 - (ii) reimbursement of non-refundable compulsory fee charged by educational institutions;
 - (iii) Book Bank facility, and
 - (iv) certain other allowances.

The Scheme was last revised **w.e.f. 01.04.2003**, and the revised Scheme was communicated to State Governments vide this Ministry's letter No.11017/7/2002-SCD-V dated 28th January 2004.

3. The Scheme has now been revised **w.e.f. 01.07.2010**. The revision includes changes in (i) income ceiling; (ii) grouping of courses; and (iii) rates of maintenance and other allowances.

4. The changes effective from **01.07.2010** are summarized in the table below:

Sl. No.	Item/ Component	Present Provision / Rates (w.e.f. 01.04.2003) (with relevant Section / para of	Revised Provision / Rates (w.e.f. 01.07.2010)
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		the existing Scheme)	
1.	Annual ceiling on family income	Rs.1 lakh p.a. (Para IV)	Rs.2 lakh p.a.
2.	Grouping of Courses	<p>Group I Degree and Post Graduate level courses (including M.Phil, Ph.D and Post Doctoral research) in Medicine (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary and Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance, Business Administration and Computer Applications/Science. Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and Multi Engine rating) Course.</p>	<p>Group I</p> <p>(i) Degree and Post Graduate level courses including M.Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral research in Medicine (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance / Administration, Computer Science/ Applications.</p> <p>(ii) Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating) course.</p> <p>(iii) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of management & medicine.</p> <p>(iv) C.A./I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C.F.A. etc.</p> <p>(v) M. Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Programmes (D. Litt., D.Sc. etc.) – a) In existing Group II courses b) In existing Group III courses</p> <p>(vi) L.L.M.</p>

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		<p>Group II Other professional and technical graduate and Post Graduate (including M.Phil, Ph.D. and Post Doctoral research) level courses not covered in Group I. C.A./ICWA/C.S. etc. courses. All Post Graduate, Graduate level Diploma courses, all Certificate Level Courses</p>	<p>Group II (i) Graduate/ Post Graduate courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B Pharma), Nursing(B Nursing), LLB, BFS, other para-medical branches like rehabilitation, diagnostics etc., Mass Communication, Hotel Management & Catering, Travel/Tourism/Hospitality Management, Interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2). (ii) Post Graduate courses not covered under Group I e.g. MA/M Sc/M.Com/M Ed./M. Pharma etc.</p>
		<p>Group III All other courses leading to a graduate or above degree (not covered in group I & II).</p>	<p>Group III All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group I & II e.g. BA/B Sc/B Com etc.</p>
		<p>Group IV All post matriculation level courses before taking up graduation like classes XI and XII in 10+2 system and intermediate examination etc., not covered in Group 'II' or 'III'.</p>	<p>Group IV All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g.senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII);</p>

		ITI courses, other vocational courses (if minimum required qualification to pursue the course is at least matriculation).	both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.
3	Monthly Maintenance Allowance	(Para V)	
		Day Schol ars	Hostel ler
	Group I	330	740
	Group II	330	510
	Group III	185	355
	Group IV	140	235
		Day Schol ars	Hostel ler
	Group I	550	1200
	Group II	530	820
	Group III	300	570
	Group IV	230	380

(Amts. in Rupees)

4	Other Allowances	(Para V)	
4.1	Study Tour Charges (One Time)	1000	1600
4.2	Thesis Typing/Printing Charges(One Time)	1000	1600
4.3	Book Grant for Correspondence Courses (One	750	1200

	Time)		
4.4	Allowance for Students with Disability <u>(i) Monthly Reader Allowance for Blind students</u>	150 (Group I&II) 125 (Group III) 100(Group IV)	240(Group I&II) 200(Group III) 160 (Group IV)
	<u>(ii) Monthly Transport Allowance for Disabled Students</u> (as defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995), if such students do not reside in the hostel which is within the premises of the Educational Institution.	100	160
	<u>(iii) Monthly Escort Allowance for Severely Handicapped Day Scholars/Students with low extremity disability</u>	100	160

	<u>(iv) Monthly Helper Allowance</u> admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopaedically handicapped	100	160
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	student residing in the hostel of an Educational Institution who may need the assistance of a helper.		
	(v) <u>Monthly Coaching Allowance to Mentally Retarded and Mentally ill Students</u>	150	240

5. Under Centrally-sponsored Schemes, recurring expenditure of the last year of a Five Year Plan gets transferred to States as their committed liability, from the first year of the next Five Year Plan. In the instant case, however, as the revision is taking place late during the XI Five Year Plan, Government of India have decided, as a special case, that **additional committed liability arising on account of the revision of the Scheme w.e.f. 01.07.2010 shall be passed on to the States / UTs at the end of the XII Five Year Plan (w.e.f. 01.04.2017) and not at the end of the XI Plan.** However, committed liability as per old scholarship rates, at the end of the XI Plan, will get transferred to States / UTs from 1.4.2012 as per past practice.

6. Other provisions of the Scheme remain unchanged.

7. State Governments are requested to please send a revised proposal for Central assistance in 2010-11, in the light of the above revision of the Scheme, so as to reach the undersigned (by name), preferably by **31st January, 2011, but, in any case, not later than 15th February, 2011.** In case the proposal for Central assistance under the Scheme for the current year has not yet been sent, it may now please be sent, in the light of the above revision, by the above dates, to enable the Ministry release Central assistance at the earliest.

Yours faithfully

(Sanjeev Kumar)
Joint Secretary(SCD)
Telephone Number :+91-11-23383853

Copy for information to:-

1. PS to Minister (SJ&E)
2. PS to Minister of State (SJ&E)
3. PS to Secretary (SJ&E)/PS to Addl. Secretary(SJ&E)
4. Secretary, NCSC/NCSK
5. JS(SCD, Media & Parliament)/JS(SD)/JS(DD)/JS(BC & Admn)/JS&FA/
DDG/Economic Adviser.
6. All Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India
7. All DS/Directors, M/o SJ&E
8. All Sections of SCD Division
9. B&C Section, M/o SJ&E
10. PIO, M/o SJ&E, PIB, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi.
11. Shri V.B. Arora, Deputy Director(Media), Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

**File No.11017/01/2008-BC-I
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

**Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated : 11th August, 2011**

To

**The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries in-Charge of OBC Welfare,
All States/UTs**

**Subject: Revision of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric
Scholarship for students belonging to OBCs (PMS-OBC).**

Sir,

The Government of India has been implementing the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to students belonging to OBCs since 1998. It aims to provide financial assistance to students belonging to OBCs for pursuing post-matriculation courses through recognized institutions. Under the Scheme, Central Assistance is provided on 100% basis to all States/UTs over and above their respective "committed liability" except in the case of North Eastern States, which are exempted from committed liability.

2. Components of the Scheme include:
 - (i) maintenance allowance;
 - (ii) reimbursement of non-refundable compulsory fee charged by educational institutions; and
 - (iii) certain other allowances.

3. The Scheme has now been revised **w.e.f. 01.07.2011**. The revision consists of the following:-
 - I. Changes in (i) income ceiling; (ii) grouping of courses; and (iii) rates of maintenance and other allowances, as per details given in para 4 below, and
 - II. The Scheme was, to begin with, meant to be open-ended, but has, in practice, been implemented subject to allocation available for it. This "Funds-Limited" nature is now being formalized, as per details given in para 5 below.

4. The changes effective from **01.07.2011** are summarized below:

Sl. No.	Item / Component	Present Provision / Rates (with relevant Section / para of the existing Scheme)	Revised Provision / Rates (w.e.f. 01.07.2011)
1.	Ceiling on family income	(Para III) Rs.44,500/- p.a.	Rs.1 lakh p.a.
2.	Grouping of Courses	<p>(Para IV)</p> <p>Group A Medical /Engineering including Degree level Courses in Indian Medicine, B.A.M&S and Comparable courses in Ayurveda, Unani/ Tibbia and Homeopathic System of Medicines. B.Sc (Agriculture/B.V.Sc/B.F.Sc (Fisheries) Higher technical and all professional studies like Degree and Post-matric courses in Agricultural and Veterinary Science.</p> <p>Group B Diploma level courses in Indian Medicine and Comparable courses in Ayurvedic, Unani/Tibbia and Homeopathic system of Medicine. Diploma & comparable courses in Engineering, Technology, Architecture, medicine, diploma level Courses in printing technology and courses for Overseer, draftsman, surveyor, Commercial Pilot License, Diploma and higher courses in Hotel Management catering technology and applied Nutrition. Degree and post-graduate course in nursing and pharmacy. Wireless and television operators/ sound recording and sound engineering motion picture, photography, film direction/acting. screenplay/writing/Degree/post graduate Diploma courses in business management,</p>	<p>Group A (i) Degree and Post Graduate level courses including M.Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral research in Medicine (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance/ Administration, Computer Science/Applications. (ii) Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating) course. (iii) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of management & medicine. (iv)C.A./I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C. F.A. etc. (v) M. Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Programmes (D. Litt., D.Sc. etc.). (vi) L.L.M.</p> <p>Group B Graduate/Post/Graduate courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B. Pharma), Nursing (B Nursing), LLB, BFS, other para-medial branches like rehabilitation</p>

		Chartered and Cost /Works Accountancy.	diagnostics etc., Mass Communication, Hotel Management & Catering, Travel/Tourism/ Hospitality Management, interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2).
		<p>Post Graduate courses in Science subjects.</p> <p>Group C Certificate courses in Engineering/Technology/Architecture and Medicine, Diploma and Certificate courses in Agriculture, Pharmacy, veterinary Science, Fisheries, Dairy development, Hygiene and Public Health , sanitary Inspector's Course, courses for Rural services, Cooperation and Community development, Sub-Officer' course at the national Fire Service College, Nagpur, Library Science.</p> <p>Degree /Post Graduate Diploma and Post Graduate Courses in Teachers' training, Library Science and Physical Education , Music Fine Arts and Law, Craft Instructor's Training Course, Certificate Course in Hotel Management/Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Passenger transport Management, Associate degree I Pharmacy , Post graduate courses in Arts and Commerce</p>	<p>(ii) Post Graduate courses not covered under Group A e.g. MA/M.Sc./M.Com/ M.Ed./M.Pharma etc.</p> <p>Group C All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group A & B e.g. BA/B.Sc./ B.Com etc.</p> <p>Group D All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII); both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.</p>

		<p>subjects.</p> <p>Group D General Courses upto Graduate level (2nd year and onward)</p> <p>Group E Classes X1th and X11th in 10+2 System Intermediate courses and first year of General courses upto graduate level.</p>																																					
3	Maintenance Allowance (Rs. per month)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">(Para IV)</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Day Scholars</th> <th>Hosteller</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group A</td> <td>190/-</td> <td>425/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group B</td> <td>190/-</td> <td>290/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group C</td> <td>190/-</td> <td>290/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group D</td> <td>120/-</td> <td>230/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group E</td> <td>90/-</td> <td>150/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(Para IV)				Day Scholars	Hosteller	Group A	190/-	425/-	Group B	190/-	290/-	Group C	190/-	290/-	Group D	120/-	230/-	Group E	90/-	150/-	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Day Scholars</th> <th>Hosteller</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group A</td> <td>350/-</td> <td>750/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group B</td> <td>335/-</td> <td>510/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group C</td> <td>210/-</td> <td>400/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group D</td> <td>160/-</td> <td>260/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Day Scholars	Hosteller	Group A	350/-	750/-	Group B	335/-	510/-	Group C	210/-	400/-	Group D	160/-	260/-
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4	Other Allowances	(Para IV)	(Rs.)																																				
4.1	Study Tour charges	500/- p.a. (subject to actual expenditure)	900/- p.a. (subject to actual expenditure)																																				
4.2	Thesis Typing & Printing charges	600/- (Maximum)	1000/- (Maximum)																																				
4.3	Book Allowance for correspondence course	500/- p.a.	900/- p.a.																																				
4.4	Reader charges for blind students (Rs. per month)	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group A, B, C</td> <td>100/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group D</td> <td>75/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group E</td> <td>50/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group A, B, C	100/-	Group D	75/-	Group E	50/-	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group A, B</td> <td>175/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group C</td> <td>130/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group D</td> <td>90/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group A, B	175/-	Group C	130/-	Group D	90/-																								
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4. 5	Scholarship for CPL Course	Maintenance allowance at the rates applicable to Group B courses, in addition to all compulsory fees including fee for flight charges. The number of awards for CPL will be 20 per annum on first-cum-first-serve basis.	Rs.5,000/- per flying hour in single/multiengine aircraft for 200 hours, as per DGCA approved rates. In addition, maintenance allowance at the rates applicable to Group 'A' courses will be provided (This will be subject to the candidate undergoing the CPL training in DGCA approved flying institutions and his confirmation to meet the balance of the cost on his own). The number of awards for CPL will be 20 per annum on first-cum-first serve basis.
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5. “Funds-Limited” nature of the revised Scheme & Procedure for Capping

Even under the existing PMS-OBC Scheme, due to budgetary constraint, in practice, it has not been possible for the Central Government to provide assistance for giving scholarship to all eligible students. Therefore, a notional allocation (NA) under the Scheme was being conveyed at the beginning of the financial year since 2008-09 to States/UTs having OBC population, in proportion to their total population as per census and they were being requested to send proposals within the NA. As mentioned in para 3(II) above, this is now being formalized under the revised Scheme, as per broad procedure outlined below:-

- (i) At the beginning of the financial year, notional allocation(NA) of funds of States/UTs will be made by this Ministry, from the overall annual outlay of the Scheme, on the basis of population of each State/UT, excluding States/UTs having no notified list of OBCs (viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Lakshadweep).
- (ii) States/UTs will sub-allocate their NA, district-wise and group-wise, for all non-professional courses. However, such sub-allocation would not be necessary for professional courses, as institutions of professional education tend to be concentrated in major cities/centres. The State Government is expected to lay down criteria for selection for award of scholarship under both types of courses – professional and non-professional, to the extent of available funds, based on merit-cum-means.
- (iii) States will earmark at least 25% of the total outlay under the Scheme for Group D courses which include, Class-XI and XII and all other post-matriculation level non-degree courses, diploma courses in polytechnics etc. Such earmarking would encourage more OBC students to join entry-level

courses of tertiary education which would enable them subsequently to take up courses leading to higher qualifications.

- (iv) States/UTs will incur expenditure under the Scheme at least to the extent of “Central assistance or NA plus their committed liability”, and should normally limit the number of scholarships accordingly. However, they would be free to allocate funds from the State-Plan, over and above the level of their committed liability plus the Central Assistance received, for funding additional scholarships under the Scheme. Any such additional expenditure will have to be borne by the State Government/UT Administration itself, over and above their committed liability, and will generally not be eligible for reimbursement from the Centre. However, additional expenditure incurred by a State/UT beyond the level of Central Assistance may be considered for reimbursement by the Central Government, to the extent of availability of savings (mainly from States which are not able to fully avail of their notional allocation, for any reason), towards the end of a financial year.
- (v) Central assistance given to a State/UT would have to be first utilized to cover renewal cases (i.e students already awarded scholarships during the previous years against Central Assistance), and only the balance amount left may be utilized to cover new cases.

The above lays down the broad principles and procedure for implementing the “Capping” feature. Each State Government may please work out its State-specific detailed modalities for implementing the “Capping” feature of the revised PMS-OBC Scheme, keeping in view the above broad principles/ procedure and its own circumstances, and send to this Ministry a copy of its guidelines issued in this behalf to the implementing agencies - as far as possible, with the first request for Central Assistance under the revised Scheme, and failing that, as soon thereafter as possible.

6. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, recurring expenditure of the last year of a Five Year Plan gets transferred to States as their committed liability, from the first year of the next Five Year Plan. In the instant case, however, as the revision is taking place in the last year of the XI Five Year Plan, Government of India have decided, as a special case, that **additional committed liability arising on account of the revision of the Scheme w.e.f. 01.07.2011 shall be passed on to the States / UTs at the end of the XII Five Year Plan (i.e. w.e.f. 01.04.2017) and not at the end of the XI Plan.** However, committed liability as per old scholarship rates, at the end of the XI Plan, will get transferred to States / UTs with effect from 1.4.2012, as per past practice.

7. Other provisions of the Scheme remain unchanged.

8. State Governments/UTs, which have already sent proposals for 2011-12, are requested to revise their proposal for Central Assistance in 2011-12, in the light of the provisions contained in para 4 of this letter, and send the revised proposal to this Ministry, so as to reach the undersigned (by name), as early as possible but in any case, by 15th September, 2011. In case the proposal for Central Assistance under the

Scheme for the 2011-12 has not yet been sent, it may now please be sent, in the light of the above revision, by the above date, to enable the Ministry to release Central Assistance at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(P.P. Mitra)
Joint Secretary

ANNEXURE- III

File No. M-11012/2/2011-SJ&SW
Government of India
Planning Commission
(Social Justice and Social Welfare Division)

Room No. 318-A, Yojana Bhavan,
New Delhi-110 001
Dated February 17th, 2011

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Recommendation of the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment – Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes/Other Backward Classes, Para 1.45

The Undersigned is directed to refer to your d.o. letter No. 16015/1/2010-SCD. V dated January 3, 2011 on the above mentioned subject and enclose here with the reply in respect of para 1.45 of the Report to be furnished to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice.

2. This issues with approval of the Member-Secretary, Planning Commission.

Encl: A/A

Sd/-
(Dr. M.L. Mathur)
Deputy Adviser (BC)
Tel: 23096781

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(Kind attn.: Smt. Sangita Gairola, Special Secretary)
Shastri Bhavan, 'A' Wing,
New Delhi – 110 001

Planning Commission
(Social Justice and Social Welfare Division)

**Reg: Recommendation of the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on
Social Justice and Empowerment**

Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes/Other Backward Classes

Para 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.

Reply

The Planning Commission in its Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) document has pronounced that "Scholarships offered by different Ministries to weaker sections of the society, follow different norms and criteria concerning the stipend amount and parental income. **This creates anomalies** and mismatch, as a minority can also be SC, **ST** or **OBC and vice-versa**. There is a need to harmonise the norms of all scholarship schemes provided to offer the same benefits in different contexts. There is a need to create absorption capacity of funds by expanding the coverage, generating awareness about the schemes especially in remote rural and inaccessible areas, providing trained and adequate staff, infrastructure, and planning capacity at state, district and block levels" (Para 8.111, Chapter 8 on social Justice). The Planning Commission takes note of the advice of the Committee regarding setting up of a 'National Scholarship Authority' and other concerning issues. These issues will be placed in the Working Groups and the Steering Committees on Empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities for Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) and an appropriate view will be taken accordingly.

D.O. No. 11017/10/2006-SCD.V

October 5. 2010

This Ministry gives plan assistance to State Government for implementing its flagship programme viz. the Centrally-sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for SC students. Under this Scheme, Central assistance is provided, over and above States' committed liability, on 100% basis, for giving scholarship to all eligible SC students (without any numerical ceiling).

In 2009-10, of the total expenditure incurred on the Scheme by States and the Central Government, about 56% was States' committed liability and the balance 44% was provided as Central assistance.

2. For a scholarship scheme to achieve its objective, it is imperative that scholarships are disbursed to students in a timely and regular manner. Unfortunately, it has come to our notice that this often does not happen- sometimes on the pleas that central assistance for the purpose has not been received.

Since over half the total expenditure on the above Scholarship Scheme is anyway the States' committed liability, it should not be difficult of State Governments to disburse scholarship to eligible students for at least the first half of the financial year. Further, since receipt of complete proposals from States under the Scheme tends to get delayed, we release an *ad hoc* instalment of Central assistance in the first quarter of the financial year. For example, this year, as against our allocation of Rs. 1700 crore under the Scheme, we released *ad hoc* assistance of about Rs. 500 crore to States in June itself. Together with the States' committed liability, this takes care of **over two thirds of the State's total requirement of funds** under the Scheme **for the whole financial year**.

3. We also endeavour to release the balance amount of Central assistance due to a State as soon after receipt of complete proposal (including audited utilization certificates due) from it, as possible.

4. You would agree with me that, in the light of the above, there is no justification whatever for non-payment of scholarship to eligible SC students, on time, every month. I would accordingly be grateful if you could please give directions to ensure that disbursement of scholarship to eligible students under the above Scheme is never held up, and students get their Scholarship regularly every month so that the Scholarship

-2-

Scheme achieves its objective of improving enrolment and retention of SC students, at the post-matric stage of education.

5. I had requested you, vide my d.o. letter No. 11017/10/2006-SCD.V dated 20.8.2009, to please also make sure that all students are disbursed scholarship through their individual bank or post office accounts. Kindly let us know the extent to which this

has been implemented in your State, and take steps for cent percent implementation at the earliest.

6. It is also necessary that State Governments designate Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) at the State and District levels to redress students' scholarship-related grievances. I would request that GROs at the two levels, if not already designated, may now please be designated urgently, their details publicized widely, and they be given suitable instructions to implement a comprehensive scholarship grievance redressal system.

7. The above considerations also apply, *mutatis, mutandis*, to our Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship for Children of families engaged in "Unclean" Occupations.

8. I would be grateful for urgent necessary action on, and response to the points mentioned in paras 4-7 above.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(K.M. Acharya)

To

Chief Secretaries of

1. 24 States
(All, excluding Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya)
2. NCT of Delhi, Chandigarh and Puducherry.

K.M. Acharya

D.O. No. 16015/01/2010 –SCD-V

January 17, 2011

In the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on the subject "Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes/Other Backward Classes", presented to the Parliament in October, 2010, the Committee has made, *inter alia*, the following recommendations:-

- (i) opening of individual accounts of students in post-offices /banks, within a definite time-frame, for disbursement of scholarships (already advised *vide* my d.o. No. 11017/10/2006-SCD.V dated 20.08.2009 and 05.10.2010);
- (ii) timely payment of scholarship (in at least quarterly installments, beginning with the first installment being paid immediately after admission) (already advised *vide* my d.o. letter No. 11017/10/2006-SCD.V dated 05.10.2010);
- (iii) to ensure that full scholarship amount for 12 months is paid to all students;
- (iv) to implement e-payment of scholarships at the earliest;
- (v) 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 (already advised *vide* d.o. letter No. 14012/2/2010-SCD-VI dated 06.10.2010 of Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, Joint Secretary, addressed to Principal Secretaries of all States/UTs);
- (vi) simplification of procedure for issue of caste certificate to SC/OBC students; and
- (vii) to set up Grievance Redressal Cells at the earliest to ensure expeditious redressal of grievances of SC/OBC students (already advised *vide* my d.o. letter No. 11017/10/2006-SCD.V dated 05.10.2010).

2. The Standing Committee has desired us to take up the above issues with State Governments/UTs, being the implementing agencies for scholarship schemes, on priority, and ensure prompt action on its recommendations.

We have to submit action taken report on the above recommendations to the Standing Committee in a time-bound manner.

3. In the light of the above, I should be grateful if you could please have immediate action taken on the Parliamentary Committee's above recommendations, and a point-wise report on action taken/being taken, sent to us **latest by 15.12.2011**, along with copies of relevant instructions issued by the State Government.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(K.M. Acharya)

To,

Chief Secretaries of

1. 24 States
(All, excluding Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya)
2. NCT of Delhi, Chandigarh and Puducherry.

ANNEXURE-VI

No. 1-9/2005/(PS) PREM
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Plan Unit

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 12th September, 2005

ORDER

Subject : Setting up of Monitoring Committee for Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment contained in its XI Report on "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" that a Monitoring Committee may be set up in the Ministry to ensure regular and strict monitoring of the implementation of the Scholarship Schemes, it has been decided to constitute a Monitoring Committee for the following Scholarship Schemes of Scheduled Castes:-

- (i) Post-matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes
- (ii) Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for Children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations
- (iii) National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes
- (iv) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes

2. The Composition of the Committee will be as under:-

- | | | |
|------|--|------------------|
| (1). | Joint Secretary (SCD), M/SJ&E | Chairman |
| (2). | Economic Adviser (PREM), M/SJ&E | Member |
| (3). | Two representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development – one each from the Department of School Education & Literacy and Department of Higher Education | Members |
| (4). | Nodal Officer from M/SJ&E for the concerned State | Member |
| (5). | Representative of Integrated Finance Division, M/SJ&E | Member |
| (6). | Representative of University Grants Commission (for Rajeev Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs) | Member |
| (7). | Representative of Ministry of External Affairs (for National Overseas Scholarship) | Member |
| (8). | Director/Deputy Secretary In charge of Post-Matric | Member Secretary |

3. Director/Deputy Secretary in charge of Schemes other than Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs, will be permanent invitees.

4. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:

- (i) To monitor progress of release of funds to States/UTs as per the notional allocation and its utilization and to take necessary corrective measures.
- (ii) To monitor progress of payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries through Banks/Post Offices by State Governments, and institutionalization of a system of electronic payment and monitoring of scholarships in States/UTs.
- (iii) To collate and examine the progress reports received from the State Governments and to obtain information regarding financial and physical progress, wherever it has not been so received.
- (v) To ensure 100% utilization of slots and allocation of funds for the schemes of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs and of the National Overseas Scholarship by taking mid-term corrective measures.
- (vi) Submission of a periodic report about the progress and status of the implementation of schemes to Secretary/Minister(SJ&E).

5. The Committee will meet at least once every quarter or more frequently, as required.

Sd/-
(R. Krishnamurthy)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

1. Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.] with the request to nominate a]
2. Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi] representative of their Department/]
3. Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi.] Organisation on the Committee.]
4. Secretary, University Grants Commission, New Delhi.]
5. JS(SCD)/EA/JS&FA]
6. All Directors/Deputy Secretaries in SCD Bureau]
7. All Nodal Officers]

Copy for information to: PS to Minister(SJ&E)/PS to MOS (SJ&E)/Sr. PPS to Secretary(SJ&E)/Sr. PPS to SS(SJ&E)

No. 1-9/2005/(PS) PREM
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Plan Unit

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 12th September, 2011

ORDER

Subject : Setting up of Monitoring Committee for Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment contained in its XI Report on "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" that a Monitoring Committee may be set up in the Ministry to ensure regular and strict monitoring of the implementation of the Scholarship Schemes, it has been decided to constitute a Monitoring Committee for the following Scholarship Schemes of Other Backward Classes:-

- (vii) Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Other Backward Classes
- (viii) Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for Other Backward Classes

2. The Composition of the Committee will be as under:-

- | | | |
|------|--|------------------|
| (1). | Joint Secretary (BC), M/SJ&E | Chairman |
| (2). | Economic Adviser (PREM), M/SJ&E | Member |
| (3). | Two representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development – one each from the Department of School Education & Literacy and Department of Higher Education | Members |
| (4). | Representative of Ministry of Minority Affairs | Member |
| (5). | Representative of Integrated Finance Division, M/SJ&E | Member |
| (6). | Nodal Officer from M/SJ&E for the concerned State | Member |
| (7). | Deputy Secretary dealing with Scholarship Schemes In BC Division, M/SJ&E | Member Secretary |

3. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:

- (i) To monitor progress of release of funds to States/UTs as per the notional allocation and its utilization and to take necessary corrective measures.

- (ii) To monitor progress of payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries through Banks/Post Offices by State Governments, and institutionalization of a system of electronic payment and monitoring of scholarships in States/UTs.
- (iii) To collate and examine the progress reports received from the State Governments and to obtain information regarding financial and physical progress, wherever it has not been so received.
- (iv) Monitor redressal of grievances by the Ministry/State Governments.
- (v) Submission of a periodic report about the progress and status of the implementation of schemes to Secretary/Minister SJ&E.

4. The Committee will meet at least once every quarter or more frequently, as required.

Sd/-
(R. Krishnamurthy)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. |] with the request to nominate a |
| 2. | Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi |] representative of their Department/
] Organisation on the Committee. |
| 3. | Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs, CGO Complex, New Delhi. |] |
| 4. | JS(BC)/EA/JS&FA |] |
| 5. | Deputy Secretaries dealing with Scholarship Schemes in BC Division | |
| 7. | All Nodal Officers | |

Copy for information to: PS to Minister, SJ&E/PS to MOS, SJ&E/Sr. PPS to Secretary, SJ&E/Sr. PPS to SS, SJ&E

ANNEXURE- IX

Sanjeev Kumar,
Telefax 23383853

Joint Secretary

D.O. No. 16015/01/2010-SCD-V

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
SHASTRI BHAWAN
NEW DELHI-110001

Dated 15th February, 2011

Dear

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the recommendation given in Para 1.147 of the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes/Other Backward Classes", which was presented to Parliament on 30.11.2010.

2. The Committee has inter-alia observed that no relaxation is given to Scheduled Caste students hailing from rural areas in the selection of candidates under the scheme of "National Overseas Scholarship for SC etc. candidates". It has, therefore, recommend considering 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.

3. I would request you to please have the above recommendation of the Standing Committee examined on priority basis and send your response by 18.02.2011 positively to enable us to send a consolidated action taken report to the Lok Sabha Secretariat within the stipulated time frame. I would also request you to provide available data, if any, about the students selected from rural areas since the inception of scheme in 2005-06.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Sanjeev Kumar)

Encl: As above

Dr. Dev Swarup,
Joint Secretary,
University Grants Commission,
Bahadurshah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi – 110002.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT HELD ON MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2012

The Committee met from 1100 hrs. to 1200 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', PHA, New Delhi.

PRESENT

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN - CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS
LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Kameshwar Baitha
3. Smt. Susmita Bauri
4. Smt. Rama Devi
5. Shri Premchand Guddu
6. Dr. Manda Jagannath
7. Shri Mohan Jena
8. Shri G. V. Harsha Kumar
9. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
10. Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh
11. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya

**MEMBERS
RAJYA SABHA**

12. Smt. Jharna Das Baidya
13. Shri Narayan Singh Kesari
14. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
15. Shri Nandi Yelliah

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Deepak Mahna - Joint Secretary
2. Shri P.C. Choulda - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them that the sitting had been convened for consideration and

adoption of the draft Reports of the Committee i.e. Nineteenth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and three Action Taken Reports (Twentieth, Twenty-First and Twenty-Second) on Demands for Grants (2011-12) of the Ministries of Minority Affairs, Tribal Affairs and Social Justice and Empowerment respectively.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration all the draft Reports and adopted the same with some additions in the 19th Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Committee authorized the Chairman to finalize the draft Reports and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	25	
II.	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Paragraph Nos. 1.45, 1.56, 1.57 1.139, 1.140, 1.141, 1.142, 1.143, 1.144 and 1.145).	10	40
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies – Nil.	0	0
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted and have been commented upon by the Committee in Chapter –I (Paragraph Nos. 1.44, 1.47, 1.48, 1.146 and 1.148)	5	20
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature (Paragraph Nos. 1.43, 1.46, 1.49, 1.50, 1.51, 1.52, 1.53, 1.54, 1.55, and 1.147).	10	40