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Title: Need to extend Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship to Backward Caste Research Scholars.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (NIZAMABAD): Sir thank you very much for allowing me to raise this urgent matter of public importance.

All over the country, the students belonging to the backward community are agitated. There is an excellent programme by the Central Government extending the Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship to the research scholars in the universities. My urge to the Government is that this scholarship may be extended to the students belonging to the Backward Community. I would request the Government to enhance the scholarship amount for research scholars and students.

I would urge the Government to implement the BC reservation when they are appointing the members to the UGC, CCSSR, CSIR, AICTE and also UPSC. I would also urge the Government to sense the impasse created by the Supreme Court in implementation of the reservations for OBCs in the higher education. Since the Government is giving a subsidy of over Rs. 1,000 crore to the IITs, my urge to the Government is that the same amount of funds which are allocated to the implementation of the OBC quota in higher education may be spent through the BC Welfare Commission. I would also urge the Government to create a Ministry for BCs, and through that extend this financial assistance to the BC students who are applying for the higher education. We also welcome the Government's decision to implement the same financial assistance to the students belonging to the forward community who are poor.

Lastly, I once again urge the Government to look into this matter because the students are very agitated all over the country. The good decision which was taken by the Chairperson of the UPA and hon. Prime Minister as well as by the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development creating an OBC quota in higher education, and by extending this financial assistance can be implemented properly.