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Title: Need to allocate adequate funds under various schemes meant for the welfare of OBCs.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): For the upliftment of Other Backward Classes in this country, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has implemented five schemes through States/UTs. They are (i) Pre-matric Scholarships, (ii) Post-matric Scholarships (iii) Hostel Facilities for OBC boys and girls (iv) Additional Credit Facility for backward classes through National Backward Finance Development Corporation for viable projects (v) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of OBCs through NGOs. For the past two years U 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocation of funds by our Government for the implementation of the above schemes is very less as compared with other demands.

Moreover, Funds allocation for Plan Schemes and Non-Plan Schemes are declining year after year since 2001. It shows that there is a decline in the allocation of funds for the welfare of OBCs. Total allocation for the welfare of various Communities viz., SC, ST, and Minorities, has risen from Rs. 1322 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 1495 crore in 2005 06 but for the welfare of OBC, it has actually been reduced from Rs. 71.45 crore to Rs. 65.30 crore.

Hence, I humbly request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to allocate more funds for the welfare of OBC in the forthcoming General Budget.

Further, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to take steps to create a separate Foundation for the welfare of OBC students on the lines of SC and Minorities Foundation in the name of Late, Shri K. Kamaraj who dedicated his entire life for the upliftment of poor and downtrodden communities.

\* Treated as laid on the Table

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