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Title: Need to release funds for scholarships for pre-matric, post- matric SC/ST students and Ph.D scholars of the Universities in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): I wish to draw the attention of the Union government through this august House that the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu have not yet received the educational scholarships for the year 2013-14 provided by the Union government.

In Tamil Nadu, around 7,23,000 students of SC and ST categories had applied for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships of the Union government. These scholarships are to the tune of Rs.549 Crore. The SC & ST students who had applied for these scholarships are fully dependant on the financial assistance from the Union government for continuing education. Even at the fag end of the financial year of 2013-14, the funds meant for these scholarships have not been released. The students are from economically deprived families of Tamil Nadu and their educational prospects are very much affected because of non-release of scholarships. Moreover PhD Scholars pursuing their research in many Universities of Tamil Nadu such as Madurai Kamaraj University, Bharathiyar University, Bharathidasan University, Alagappa University, etc. are not in receipt of UGC scholarships for the past 18 months. The students pursuing PhD courses in several Universities of Tamil Nadu are facing lots of hardships due to non-release of funds pertaining to UGC scholarships. Their studies and research activities have also been hampered.

I therefore urge the Union government to immediately release funds for providing pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for the SC & ST students of Tamil Nadu. I also urge that the funds relating to UGC scholarships meant for PhD Scholars of the Universities in Tamil Nadu should also be released without any further delay.

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