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Title: Need to take steps for implementation of Special Scholarship Scheme for the Kashmiri Students.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): I would thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for calling me to speak. I would like to raise an important matter in this august House.

Sir, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved a Special Scholarship Scheme for the Jammu and Kashmir students in 2011 to encourage them to pursue their higher studies outside their State. Under this Scheme, more than 5000 beneficiaries have sought admission in different disciplines including the undergraduate technical and general degree courses in different colleges of the country. But the undue delay in the releasing of funds is putting their career at stake. Their claims of Fellowships are being repeatedly questioned by the colleges concerned.

The Government at that time had ensured that every scholar would get up to Rs.30,000 *per annum* for tuition fees for general degree courses, up to Rs.1.25 lakh *per annum* for engineering course and up to Rs. 3 lakh *per annum* for medical studies. In addition to these, hostel fees and incidentals were also promised to be given to all categories of courses up to a ceiling of Rs. One lakh per annum. But even after having appeared in their Semester Examinations, the funds are yet to be released.

It is learnt that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has not confirmed the scholarship which has raised uncertainty regarding their admissions in the upcoming semesters. I urge the Government to take immediate steps to release funds to save the future of the Kashmiri students who are getting admission in different colleges in our country.