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Title: Need to grant scholarship to post-matric students and releasing the balance amount due to Tamil Nadu Government.

SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM): Sir, Post-Matric Scholarships to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes to pursue higher education is a Centrally- sponsored scheme, elaborately and successfully implemented in our State by our Government of Tamil Nadu, guided by our hon. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*. We have increased the number of professional colleges and universities in Tamil Nadu which includes many self-financing institutions. An upward revision of the fees for the courses has resulted in more students coming for higher education from the SC community, who face more of financial burden. Many of those students from under-privileged classes are made to wait for a long time for the grant of scholarship. In 2014-15, the Government of Tamil Nadu sought the Central assistance of Rs.1,204.76 crore which includes arrears for the previous years also whereas the Centre released only Rs.254 crore which is less than 22 per cent of the Central assistance. Hence, I urge upon the Government to fulfil its committed liability and release the balance amount of Rs.950.76 crore due to Tamil Nadu for 2014-15 at the earliest.