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Title: Regarding releasing of Central Government share meant for disbursement of Post matric Scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

*SHRI C. MAHENDRAN : Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has stressed the need for immediate release of Government of India's share towards the disbursement of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu, which now totals Rs.1549.76 crores for the period up to 2015-16. Tamil Nadu is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes pursuing higher studies in recognized institutions. Under this scheme, 100 per cent Central Assistance is provided to all States/UTs beyond the committed liability. In 2015-16, the Government of Tamil Nadu has to incur a total expenditure of Rs.1295.55 crore towards Post-matric Scholarships, out of which Rs.942 crore is the Government of India's share. For the period up to 2014-15, arrears amounting to Rs.1175.10 crore were pending. During 2015-16, so far, only Rs.567.34 crore has been released by the Government of India, leaving a total balance of Rs.1549.76 crore. Sir, timely release of scholarships is very essential to keep the students, most of whom are from very poor families, adequately motivated to pursue their studies. I therefore urge for immediate release of Government of India's share of Rs.1549.76 crores for the period up to 2015-16 towards the disbursement of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu. Thank you.