

**Scheduled Castes,
Scheduled Tribes
and other Back-
ward Classes**

***SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES.**

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Sir, on the 13th of this month, . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: One second. I have received intimation from certain Members that they want to participate in this. Under Rule 55, Members who have intimated earlier their intention to participate, can only put questions. There are no speeches that can be made by other Members. I will request Shri Tangamani to conclude within 10 minutes so that the hon. Minister may have 10 minutes to reply and ten minutes may be left for other hon. Members.

Shri Tangamani: As I was saying, on the 13th of this month, a question was tabled by a large number of Members and this was answered in this House as Starred Question No. 381. The main purport of the question and the supplementaries was this. Decentralisation has taken place on the question of award of scholarships for 1959-60. We wanted to know what has been the guiding principle and what is the nature of the control, and on what basis the allocations would be made. The hon. Minister replied that decentralisation has taken place after discussion with the Chief Ministers of the various States and also consultation with the Scholarship Board and that proper consultation has taken place before this decentralisation was brought about. He also told us that decentralisation was necessary for prompt disbursement and to avoid duplication.

I do not want to go into details. If only we go through the supplementaries that were put on that particular date, it will be seen that there was really apprehension on the part of the Members that in spite of this decentralisation, disbursement has not taken place. Even the *ad hoc* payment for renewal has not taken place to this day. Several other points also were raised. I would confine myself to four

or five aspects of this question arising from decentralisation of the whole question of scholarships to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.

My first point is this. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, in January 1955, addressing the Central Advisory Board for Education said:

"When I took over charge in 1947, the total amount utilised for all scholarships was Rs. 3.5 lakhs. It was my constant aim to increase the provision year by year."

Then he goes on to say how the allotment has increased to Rs. 107 lakhs in the year 1954-55." If we go through the figures also, we find that in 1952-53, the allotment was Rs. 17½ lakhs originally, but later on it was increased to Rs. 30 lakhs; in 1953-54, the allotment which was Rs. 40 lakhs was raised to Rs. 62 lakhs; in 1954-55, the allotment which was Rs. 75 lakhs was raised to Rs. 107 lakhs, in 1955-56, the allotment which was Rs. 130 lakhs was raised to Rs. 150 lakhs; in 1956-57, the allotment which was Rs. 150 lakhs was raised to Rs. 186 lakhs; in 1957-58, the allotment which was Rs. 200 lakhs was raised to slightly over Rs. 200 lakhs; in 1958-59 and 1959-60, it remains in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2.25 crores.

So, my first submission, without elaborating this point, is that there has been need for increasing this allotment; even after the allotment has been originally made, in the course of the year, it has had to be raised. So, my submission is that the sum of Rs. 2.25 crores which has been allotted for this year will not be sufficient to meet the demands, because there have been ever so many applicants, and more than 40,000 scholarships will have to be given. So, some provision may be made whereby this allotment may be increased at least to Rs. 3 crores.

Now, arising from this, there is one submission that I would like to make. The Madras State Government have

[Shri Tangamani]

got a programme by which scholarship is given. There is a separate allotment for scholarships to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and a separate allotment for scholarships to the other backward classes. But here in this scheme, we have got all these things combined into one. So, we cannot choose the one in favour of the other. I find that in the year 1956-57, the budgetary provision was allotted as follows: 45 per cent. for Scheduled Castes—subsequently, we find that it was increased to 47 per cent, 15 per cent for the Scheduled Tribes,—we found that the disbursement went only up to 9 per cent, and 40 per cent for the other backward classes, which was later on increased to 44 per cent.

So, my submission is that there must be a demarcation. We must set apart so much for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and so much for the other backward classes. That will be the ideal thing to do, failing that, we must have a suitable percentage for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the other backward classes. From the various figures, I find that the scholarships to be given to the members of the Scheduled Tribes does not go above 9 per cent; so, 10 per cent will be a proper percentage for the Scheduled Tribes, the remaining 90 per cent may be divided equally or in any other proportion, I am not particular about the proportion, but we must know how much will be allotted to the Scheduled Castes and how much will be allotted to the other backward classes.

My next point is in regard to the question of transfer of surplus from one State to another. Now, we find that in each year, a certain amount is allotted to each State, but a surplus is left in some States. How is that surplus going to be spent? That is an important thing. If there is a surplus, my submission is that it may be divided equally amongst all the States.

My third point will be in regard to renewal cases. Cases of renewal must

be disposed of as speedily as possible. Tomorrow will be the 1st of September, and one term would have been completed, but my information is if I am not wrong, that even the *ad hoc* payment in these cases of renewal have not been made to the State. At least when the Centre was disbursing this, a section of the students who had this scholarship and who had applied for renewal were able to get it. But here I find that delay is still continuing.

The next point on which I want a reply from the hon. Minister is this. There should not be a cut in the facilities. I shall explain what I mean. Now, the State Governments have got certain schemes for scholarships, whether they be for the Scheduled Castes or for the other backward classes. Now the scholarship amount for an engineering college student may be Rs. 600, the same scholarship while given by the Central Government may be Rs. 800. When the thing is taken over by the State Government, the amount should not be reduced to Rs. 600. Whatever the student was getting as a scholarship-holder directly from the Central Government must continue.

Now, in the States they have got this poverty test or the means test, but here we had the means test, and I believe that has been abolished.

I know in Madras State, means is Rs. 150 per mensem. If that is going to be applied we may find that certain students who would have normally got this renewal are not benefited as a result of this. So my submission is that this particular aspect should be borne in mind and the rights and benefits which were being enjoyed by the scholarship holders should not be taken back.

My next point would be this. If on the basis of population or of the previous year's allotment payment is made, we may find that in certain States it may be in deficit. I can speak from experience of the Madras

State, Madras State, on the basis of last year, would be getting only Rs. 22 lakhs. From the applications now coming, taking deserving cases on the basis of the merit consideration which we have imposed, Madras State will require at least Rs. 40 lakhs. At the same time we must see that this is not made part of the State's scholarships and both these things are combined

Even to this day we do not know who is the officer in charge of each State Government. The hon. Minister stated that it is for the State to decide. The students do not know whom to address for getting scholarships, to whom to send their applications. That will have to be clarified. Otherwise, even by 1st September which is the last date fixed by the Madras State for receiving applications, the deserving cases may not have sent their applications in time

Lastly, I would like to know whether any discussions have taken place with the State Government since this question was answered and whether any clear-cut directive, on the basis of some of the suggestions which I have made now and on the basis of some suggestions which were invited in the House, have been made to the various State Governments

And in conclusion I would request the hon. Minister that this booklet, "Progress of Scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes" which was published in 1957 may be brought up-to-date containing the scheme as it applies now to the various States after the decentralisation.

Shri Basumatari (Goalpara-Reserve-od-Sch. Tribes): The other day the hon. Speaker suggested to the Minister that he should consult the M.P.'s about this matter. I want to know whether it was done or not. That is one thing.

Another thing is this. Shri Tangamani suggested that ten per cent should

be cut out from the share of the tribal people. The tribal people are so backward that if ten per cent is cut as has been suggested by Shri Tangamani, then...

Shri Tangamani: I did not say it should be cut. I said that the tribal people should get, but from the statistics, we find that only ten per cent of the total goes to them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right.

Shri Basumatari: In the case of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes it should not be disturbed.

Another thing I want to know from the hon. Minister is whether M.P.s will be included in the Scholarship Board at the Centre. If they are not included and if there is some anomaly or irregularity done there, we cannot raise our voice here. The M.P.s from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes are very few; from each State there are only one or two, and I think there should be no difficulty in having them included in Scholarship Board in each State.

Shri Tangamani also said that the amount should be retained or maintained as it was in the Centre.

The other thing which I would like to suggest is that rules should be so laid down in this respect that nobody can play on the politics. The State Governments sometimes misuse the money and divert the money from one side to the other, from the Tribal side to another side. Rules should be laid down so strictly wherein that cannot be done. This should be looked into.

श्री जि० बंडल (सररिया) : यह जो छात्रवृत्ति का विकेंद्रीकरण किया गया है इसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि अगर एक राज्य का विद्यार्थी दूसरे राज्य में पढ़ता है तो उसको कठिनाई होती है। जब केन्द्र से छात्रवृत्ति मिलती थी तो राज्य के नाम पर दी जाती थी। अब अगर एक राज्य का

[श्री शि. मण्डल]

विद्यार्थी किसी दूसरे राज्य में पढ़ता है तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को कठिनाई हो जाएगी। इसके बारे में मैं मंत्री जी से एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ।

दूसरी बात मैं फण्ड के अलॉटमेंट के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। यह अलॉटमेंट जनसंख्या के आधार पर किया जाता है। जहाँ तक हरिजनो और आदिवासियों का संबंध है उनकी संख्या तो जनगणना में निश्चित रूप से मालूम कर ली गयी थी। लेकिन जहाँ तक बैंकवर्ड क्लासेज का संबंध है उनका नाम कास्ट हिन्दूज के साथ लिखा गया था। उनकी संख्या छलन नहीं दी गयी है। इसलिए किसी किसी राज्य को बड़ी कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। और इसी कारण बिहार में गत वर्ष बहुत कम छात्रवृत्ति मिली। चूँकि मैं छात्रवृत्ति समिति का सदस्य था इसलिये मैं जानता हूँ कि बिहार में बैंकवर्ड क्लासेज की संख्या २ करोड़ से ज्यादा है। मैंने पिछले १९३६ की सर्वेक्षणकारी के आकड़े देखे हैं। उनके अनुसार इनकी संख्या आज बिहार में २ करोड़ से ऊपर है। लेकिन सिर्फ ६३ लाख की आबादी पर ही अलॉटमेंट गत वर्ष हुआ था। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस विषय में भ्रम क्या करना चाहते हैं।

तीसरी चीज यह है कि, जैसा मेरे दोस्त ने भी कहा, जब केन्द्र से छात्रवृत्ति मिलती थी जो न्यायसंगत तरीके से मिलती थी। लेकिन मेरी यह जानकारी है कि राज्यों में यह काम उतना अच्छे ढंग से नहीं हो रहा है। बिकेन्द्रीकरण निश्चयतः बड़ी अच्छी चीज है यह मैं जानता हूँ, लेकिन इस मामले में केन्द्र को भी सतर्क रहना चाहिए ताकि जो केन्द्रीय फण्ड अलॉट हो उसका राज्य सरकारें ठीक से उपयोग करें। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मन्त्री महोदय राज्य सरकारों को यह आह्वान दें कि राज्यों में जो छात्रवृत्ति समितियाँ बनायीं

जाएँ उनमें राज्य सरकारें संसद् सदस्य को भी प्रवेश रहें।

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): Is it not a fact that when this scholarship was being dealt with by the Centre, individual students were receiving money on an all-India basis on the same standard? Now that the population basis has been accepted, is it not a fact that when the number of scholars is greater in a State and the population less, then the amount of scholarship per individual will go down? Will this not come about? Is it not a fact that the Central Government were advancing money to different colleges? Now no amount has been sanctioned or sent up till now to colleges. It was intimated to the students who were expected to get the scholarships that they will not be charged for tuition fees and other things but their scholarship will be adjusted against the same. I would request the hon. Minister to clarify the position so that the students in the States will be relieved.

Shri N. R. Munniamy (Vellore): I may be permitted to ask two questions. The first is: how is this allotment to be apportioned between the three categories of people—Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes? Is it on the basis of population or is it that ad hoc amounts have been allotted for these three categories? The other question is this. Will the rules and regulations that have been framed here by the Central Government while awarding scholarships be maintained by the State Governments also or will they have their own rules and regulations, apart from what the Central Government have already framed? In the latter case, would they give a clean go-by to the Central rules and evolve their own rules?

Shri Basumatari: May I ask only one question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already asked.

Shri Siddiah (Mysore—Reserved Sch. Castes): While discussing the Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, both the Deputy Minister, Shrimati Alva, and the Minister of State, Shri Datar, had assured us that every student belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would be awarded scholarship this year also. I want to know whether that assurance will be implemented this year

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): I want to ask whether because the scheme of decentralisation has not been sufficiently publicized by the State Governments, the Minister is going to consider extending the last date for receipt of applications by Scheduled Caste and other students

Secondly, whether those students who have not received their scholarships from January 1958 to June 1959 will get their scholarships from the Central Board here or from the State Boards there?

Thirdly, whether cases of discrimination between these scholarship holders have come to the notice of the hon Minister?

Shri Ayyakannu (Nagapattinam—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Sir, the Central Government has fixed Rs 400 as the income of the parent per month for eligibility for scholarships. But some States have fixed Rs 100 and some other States Rs 150 per month. So, I would like to know whether the Centre would advise the States to accept this formula of Rs 400 income or would allow the States to have their own limits of income

श्री कल्याण चरणकर (बादायल, रजिस्ट्रार-अनुसूचित जातियाँ): बहुत से लोग संसद सत्रियों के पास हस्ताक्षर लेन चाते हैं इनके लिए कि वे किस जाति से सम्बन्ध रखते हैं जब होता यह है कि कुछ लोग कुनार का काम

करते हैं लेकिन जाति से वे कुनार नहीं होते, कोई लोग जाति से ब्राह्मण होते हैं लेकिन काम दरजी का करते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि हम दरजी हैं। ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमको क्या करना चाहिये। यह मेहरबानी करके बता दीजिए।

Shri Basumatari: I want to know whether all these Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe scholarship holders are exempted from payment of college fees; and, if so, which are the States where they are exempted

श्री ए० सा० बाकपाल (बीकानेर-रजिस्ट्रार अनुसूचित जातियाँ): संबिधान में यह गारण्टी दी गयी है कि दस वर्षों में हरिजनों को शैक्षणिक दृष्टि से समान स्तर पर लाया जाएगा। लेकिन हम में से जितने लोग छात्रवृत्ति के लिये फार्म भरते हैं उनमें से बहुत कम लोगो को छात्रवृत्ति दी जाती है। २५ परसेंट से भी कम को मिलती है। कह दिया जाता है कि हमारे पास इतना ही बजट है। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि इस स्थिति में प्राय हरिजनों की स्थिति को कैसे सुधार सकेंगे।

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimati): Quite a number of questions have been raised and I shall try to satisfy the hon Members as far as possible. My friend, Shri Tangamani raised the question with regard to the need for increasing the allotment. He is quite right that during the past several years we have been continuously increasing the allotment for the scholarship fund for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes. I am very happy that this was being done because but for this a large number of students who would not have ordinarily got access to colleges would not have taken advantage of higher education. It was a matter of great satisfaction to the Government that there had been continuous increases as regards the allocation of funds.

The position now is that last year we raised the fund to Rs. 225 lakhs.

[Dr. K. L. Shrimall]

I think Shri Tangamani is quite right that unless we increase this allocation all the eligible students of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would not get scholarships. I did not know whether additional funds would be available. We are approaching the Finance Ministry and requesting them to let us have an additional Rs. 25 lakhs. If we get that amount, then, it is possible that we may be able to give scholarships to all Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

The general policy that we have laid down before the States is that no Scheduled * Caste student should be denied scholarship. In our opinion they are the most backward classes so far as education and economic conditions are concerned. Therefore, we have said that for some time to come all the eligible Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students should get scholarship. We have also written to the State Governments that they may supplement their funds with the grants which they get from the Central Government and as far as possible give scholarships to all Scheduled Caste students because so far as I remember Sir, the hon. Minister assured us that all students from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will get scholarship.

Shri Basumatari: On a point of clarification, I want to know the eligible students

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: Those who passed the examination are eligible; as far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned that is the principle we have followed. If the State Governments cannot supplement the grants which they get from the Central Government and the Central Government cannot give additional funds for this purpose, it is obvious that some kind of a selection will have to be made among the Scheduled Caste students. We would very much like that all eligible Scheduled Castes and Tribes students get the scholarship but it will depend

upon the availability of funds, both with the Centre as well as the States.

Shri Tangamani raised a question with regard to the demarcation of funds for three categories. There is a demarcation of funds but there is certain elasticity also. Since it has been our policy that all the Scheduled Castes and Tribes should get the scholarship, there has sometimes been a shift and as far as the backward classes are concerned, amounts are allocated on the basis of population. In the past out policy was to give scholarship to all the Scheduled Castes and Tribes students who are eligible. Shri Tangamani also suggested that the cases of renewals should be disposed of as quickly as possible. We have released 25 per cent of the expenditure incurred on each State or Union administration in the last fiscal year. We have asked the State Governments to renew scholarships as quickly as possible.

A question was raised whether a uniform policy would be followed by the State Governments. The policy will be laid down by the Central Government in this matter. In fact a directive has been given to the State Governments and as far as possible a uniform policy will be followed by them. Certain difficulties were pointed out in the implementation of the scheme by the State Governments recently when this scheme was decentralised. The House is aware that at first we accepted the principle that funds should be allocated on the basis of population. The Government of Bengal and the Government of Uttar Pradesh and some other hon. Members of Parliament also, made representations to the Government that this might cause some hardship to those States where the number of eligible students was much larger. We are re-examining that position again and the matter will have to be considered by the Cabinet. If they approve, then, for two years, we might accept the arrangement which we had in the past, that is, distribution of funds to

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the State Governments on the basis of which we have been awarding scholarships to the three categories in the past. This will not cause any kind of hardship to those State Governments which have a larger number of eligible students. It is possible that the whole position may have to be reviewed after a couple of years.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):
Why not review it every year?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Well, Sir, the question was raised whether we have given sufficient publicity to the whole scheme of decentralisation. I would like to inform that apart from the information which we gave to the State Governments, we also have informed the Members of Parliament,

Press Notifications have been issued and we have asked the State Governments to publicise the scheme as far as possible.

These are the main questions that were raised by hon. Members. If there are any questions which are left out I would be glad to answer them.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The discussion is over.

17.32. hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 1st September, 1959/Bhadra 10, 1881 (Saka).