

Pre and Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs

†*172. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not following the norms of granting cent per cent amount of scholarship to the students belonging to OBC studying in pre-matric and post-matric classes by the Central Government as is being done in the case of SC and ST students of same category despite continuous requests being made by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Centre for extending same facilities of economic assistance to the students belonging to OBC; and

(b) by when this demand would be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs and STs is being implemented by the Government of India. Under the Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship for OBCs, 50% Central Assistance is provided. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned Rs. 64.00 lakh in 1998-99 and Rs. 606.00 lakh in 2002-03. However the Government of Madhya Pradesh did not utilize the money as per the Scheme. In the year 2005, the Government of Madhya Pradesh requested the Government of India to revise the Scheme of Government of India in line with that of Government of Madhya Pradesh and/or to adjust the allocation of the Central Government pending unutilized. It was not found feasible to accede to the request of State Government and it was directed to refund the money unutilized along with the interest @ 6% p.a. accrued on the unspent amount. The State Government has refunded the unutilized money of Rs. 606.00 lakh on 20th April, 2006. The State Government thereafter has been requested to refund the balance of Rs. 64 lakh and interest accrued.

In case of Post Matric Scholarship for OBCs, 100% Central Assistance is provided. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned Rs. 149 lakh in the year 1998-99 under the Scheme. The State Government has reported that the amount was spent in the year 2003-04.

(b) Madhya Pradesh Government's request for fund under Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship for OBC students will be processed on settlement of accounts of previous allotments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi