

engaged in unclean occupation,” the quantum of central assistance has been enhanced from 50% to 100% to all State Governments/UTs over and above their committed liability with effect from 1.4.08. Under the scheme of “Pre-matric scholarship for OBC students”, the proposals from State Governments/UTs are received and funds are released as per their notional allocation after examining the utilisation certificate and provision in the State budget.

(b) to (d) Under the “Post-matric scholarship scheme for SC students” the annual income-limit of Rs. 1 lakh was fixed *w.e.f.* 1.4.2003. A need was felt to increase the income ceiling and scholarship rates as well as revise other norms applicable under this scheme. Accordingly, the revision of this scheme is under consideration.

Funds for welfare of the Dalits

†2967. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has failed to release allocated funds for the welfare of the Dalits (Scheduled Castes);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the allocated and provided funds during last five years;

(c) the provisions that are available regarding providing funds for the Dalit welfare schemes, whether Government has been able to literally follow these provisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the clarification of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During the last five years Rs. 6592.57 crores was allocated and an amount of Rs. 6944.83 crore was released for schemes pertaining to Scheduled Castes.

(c) to (e) Funds are provided as per the provisions of the various schemes.

Welfare of senior citizens

2968. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has incorporated the term ‘welfare’ in the title of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007 but have not defined the term in Clause 2 of the Bill;

(b) if so, the corrective action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the welfare activities formulated for senior citizens?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.