

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.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The term 'welfare' has been incorporated in section 2(k) of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

(c) The Government is implementing The Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons' under which financial assistance is provided to suitable NGOs for running various projects for the welfare of the senior citizens. Some of these include maintenance of old age homes; maintenance of respite care homes and continuous care homes for older persons; multi service centres; Mobile Medicare Units; day care centres for Alzheimer/Dementia patients; physiotherapy clinics for older persons; help lines and counseling centres etc.

Industrial training to SCs and STs

‡2969. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to provide various types of industrial training to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country to make them economically self-dependent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The schemes which contain components to upgrade skill of SCs/STs for income and employment generation are Scheme of 'Vocational Training in Tribal areas', Scheme of 'Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for SCs' and the scheme of special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes sub plan. In addition National Scheduled Castes Financial Development Corporation and National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation provide skill development training to SCs for industrial training in various trades.

(c) Does not arise.

Employment of disabled persons

2970. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

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

(a) whether Budget Speech, February 2008, promised to employ one lakh disabled persons in private sector in 2008-09;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.