

2. In addition, there are schemes for providing various facilities to older persons and persons with disabilities as well as rehabilitation of victims of substance (Drugs) abuse.

Post-matric scholarships

2965. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra for assistance under the post matric scholarships for the OBC have been pending in his Ministry since the year 2004;

(b) whether he is aware of the hardship caused to the students by this delay; and

(c) by when all these pending claims would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal for grant of Rs. 200 crores under the Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students for the year 2004-05. However, because of non-receipt of utilization certificate in the prescribed proforma for Rs. 4.39 crore released in 2001-02 along with details of corresponding physical and financial achievements as well as physical target for 2004-05, no funds could be released to the State Government of Maharashtra during the year. Proposals of State Governments for central assistance under the [Scheme are received and considered on year-to-year basis, depending upon availability of funds. A total assistance of Rs. 43.07 crore has been released during the period 2005-06 to 2008-09 to the State Government of Maharashtra. As regards the year 2009-10, complete proposal is awaited from the State Government.

Funds for scholarships

†2966. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when Central Government would provide 50 per cent amount to States to enhance their limited financial provisions since the rates of State scholarships up to secondary level are very low;

(b) whether, under post-matric scholarship scheme, annual income limit for students of Scheduled Castes has been fixed to be Rs. 1 lakh by the Central Government, leaving many students of middle income group deprived of scholarships;

(c) the measures taken therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Under the scheme of "Pre-matric scholarship for children of those

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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.