

Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes were revised recently. The income ceiling limit under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme is revised after every two years to neutralize the increase in Price Index.

Construction of hostels for SCs/STs in Karnataka

2537. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal received from State for construction of hostels for SCs/STs during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the funds allocated/released and actually utilized in this regard by the State Government;

(c) the number of students benefited yearly under the scheme;

(d) whether there are any proposals pending with Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):

(a) to (e)

SC Hostel

During 2004-05, the Ministry received two separate proposals from the Government of Karnataka; one was for construction of **23 Boys hostels** to accommodate 1150 students with a financial implication of **Rs. 447.68 lakhs** towards central assistance and the other was for construction of **9 Girls hostels** with a total capacity of 950 inmates and having a central share of **Rs. 150 lakhs**. The proposals were considered and admissible central assistances were released to the Government of Karnataka during 2004-05 itself. As per the utilization certificate submitted by the Govt. of Karnataka, the released amount has been utilized for the purpose it was meant for.

Further, an incomplete proposal for release of central assistance of Rs. 378 lakhs and Rs. 222 lakhs respectively for construction of 21 Boys hostels and 12 Girls hostels was received from the Government of Karnataka during the year 2005-06. Necessary documents have been called for before processing these cases.

ST Hostel

The Government of Karnataka has been released an amount of Rs. 206 lakhs under the scheme of Hostel for ST Boys and Girls during the year 2005-06. So far, the utilization reported is Rs. 27.67 lakhs.

For the year 2006-07, a new proposal for release of Rs. 170.79 lakhs under the said scheme has been received from Karnataka and is due to be considered on merit.

Reservation on economic basis

2538. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing any legislation for providing reservation to the people on economic basis in addition to the existing policy of reservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the specific reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):

(a) to (d) The Government has constituted the Commission for Economically Backward Classes comprising of a Chairperson, a Member and a Member-Secretary, with the following terms of reference:-

- I. to elicit the views of the State Governments/UTs and other Commission on the subject;
- II. to suggest criteria for identification of economically backward classes;
- III. to recommend the welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education and Government employment in consultation with the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities;
- IV. to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities as required for the implementation of their recommendations.

The Commission is to submit its report within six months from the date of appointment of the Chairperson. The Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary have been appointed *vide* Notification dated 10.7.2006.