

Development, (iii) Budgetary Mechanism, (iv) Empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Reservations, (v) Liberation and Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers, and (vi) Basic Amenities in Scheduled Caste Hamlets. The Report has been sent to various Ministries/Departments. Some of the important steps taken in this regard are:-

- (i) Revision of the Post Matric Scheme for SC students announced in the budge speech for financial year 2010-11, and consequential action is being taken.
- (ii) A pilot Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana for integrated development of selected SC – majority villages has been launched.
- (iii) Financial assistance has been provided to all eligible and willing beneficiaries under the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers, for alternative occupation.
- (iv) A high level Committee has been set up to review the guidelines pertaining to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan, and
- (v) A Special Recruitment Drive has been implemented by the Department of Personnel and Training for filling up backlog reserved vacancies, *inter-alia* of Scheduled Castes.

#### **Fee reimbursement for OBC**

†2811. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision for the reimbursement of total fees under the Merit-cum-means Scheme of minority classes whereas the similar provision does not exist, under the running scheme of Government for the other backward classes;

(b) if so, the reasons for applying double standard; and

(c) whether Government would consider to remove this anomaly, if so, by when it would be done?

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†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) to (c) While under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of merit-cum-means Scholarship for Minorities, full course fee is reimbursed to eligible students belonging to minority communities admitted to the institutions listed in the Scheme, there is no such merit-cum-means Scheme for OBCs. However under the existing Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs, there is a provision for reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees in addition to maintenance allowance, reader charges for blind students, study tour charges, thesis typing/printing charges and book allowances for students pursuing correspondence course for complete duration of the course.

**Income limit for OBCs**

†2812. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual family income limit fixed for the Other Backward Classes under pre-matric and post-matric scholarship of Government is Rs. 44,500 whereas the income limit fixed for the same scholarships applicable for Minorities is Rs. 2 lakh;

(b) if so, the reasons for this anomaly; and

(c) whether Government would consider to remove the anomaly, if so, by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The annual family income ceiling under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for OBCs and Minorities is as under:-

(i) Pre Matric for OBCs – Rs. 44,500/-

(ii) Post Matric for OBCs – Rs. 44,500/-

(iii) Pre Matric for Minorities – Rs. 1,00,000/-

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