

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/-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iv) Post Matric for Minorities – Rs. 2,00,000/-

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal to increase the limit of annual family income under the Scheme of Pre-Matric scholarship for OBCs. However, revision of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBCs is under consideration.

Funds for blind and mentally retarded

2813. DR. E.M. SUNDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated to blind and mentally retarded are unutilized and returned as unspent every year for the past 10 years;

(b) if so, whether the persons responsible for implementation are accountable to Government; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Funds are not released Disability-wise. Funds are allocated to various Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), State Governments, National Institutes and other organizations working for the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), out of budgetary provisions under various schemes for the welfare and rehabilitation of PwDs including blind and mentally retarded persons. Proposals received from time to time from NGOs, State Governments, etc. are examined in the Ministry with regard to the norms and parameters of the Scheme and funds are released in respect of such proposals which are found to be complete in all respects and in conformity with the norms of the scheme under which these are considered. At times the proposals are not received in time or not complete in every respect resulting in some allocation remaining unspent in any particular year.

Implementation of the scheme is reviewed from time to time and corrective measures are taken to overcome systematic and procedural difficulties resulting in less utilization of funds.