(vii) MSDE has also signed MoUs with Germany, UK, China and Australia, to scale up apprenticeships support, training of trainees, curriculum development, ensure benchmarking of standards and create Centres of Excellence in skill training across the country.

(c) The implementation of skilling activities under the Mission will be as per the budget provisions of various schemes under their respective heads of account.

Financial assistance to backward castes in Maharashtra

905. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) the details of financial assistance given to the backward castes in Maharashtra for higher education through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation during the last two years;

(b) the number of persons benefited;

(c) the number of applications received and pending out of them; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of persons for such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides financial assistance through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by respective State Governments/ UTs at concessional rate of interest to the members of Backward Classes living below double the poverty line for income generating activities and to generate self-employment opportunities.

(b) The details of the financial assistance provided and number of persons benefitted under Education Loan Scheme of NBCFDC during the year and last two years in the state of Maharashtra, is as follows:—

2013-14		2014-15	
Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical
₹ 1.05 crore	204 Beneficiaries	₹ 1.00 crore	200 Beneficiaries

(c) The NBCFDC provides financial assistance to the SCAs on their demand. No application is received by NBCFDC.

(d) The eligibility criteria for selection of person is as follows:-

I. He/She Should be a member of Backward Classes, as notified by Central Government/State Governments from time to time.

II. The annual income of the applicant's family should be below double the poverty line *i.e.* ₹ 1,20,000/- p.a. in urban areas and ₹ 98,000/- p.a. in rural areas.

III. The applicant should have obtained admission for any professional courses approved by appropriate authority such as All India Council for Technical Education, Medical Council of India, University Grant Commission etc.

Action after suicide of dalit scholar

906. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the action that the Ministry has taken on the suicide of a dalit scholar of Hyderabad Central University;

(b) whether the Ministry was in contact with the Ministry of HRD;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) With reference to a news item dated 19.01.2016, captioned "Behind Dalit student suicide: how his campus showed him the door", the Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, was demi-officially addressed on 19.01.2016 requesting for a factual note in the matter and the circumstances that led to a drastic step taken by the student. The details in regard to relief amount under relevant provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) {PoA} Act, 1989 were also sought.

Government of Telangana, informed that the case was booked by Gachibowli Police Station of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate *vide* crime no. 19/2016 under section 174 Cr. PC based on the report of the hostel warden in the incident of the reported suicide of Shri Rohith Vemula. Another FIR was filed by complainant Shri Dontha Prashant, alleging atrocities of Professor P. Appa Rao, Vice Chancellor of University of Hyderabad and some others in which a case was booked in Crime No. 20/2016 under section 306 IPC and section 3(1)(ix) ,(x) and 3(2)(vii) of the PoA Act. Subsequently section 3(2)(v) of the PoA Act was also added. The University authorities also announced payment of an amount of ₹ 8,00,000/- as ex-gratia to the bereaved family of Rohith Vemula.