

of ₹ 1599.00 crores in Budget Estimate (BE) during 2015-16 under Post-Matric Scholarships for SC students and Central Assistance of ₹ 2213.88 crores was released upto March 2016 through re-appropriation of saving from other schemes.

(c) and (d) 56.8 lakh beneficiaries were eligible for receipt of Post-matric Scholarship in 2015-16. The Government has released Central Assistance to cover 65% of the demand from States/UTs for the year 2015-16 as on date.

Changes in MWTSC Act

2220. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring amendment to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act to remove the monthly ceiling of ₹ 10,000/- on the maintenance paid by children to parents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also proposes to provide doorstep free legal services to senior citizens in cases relating to maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Amendment to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act to remove the monthly ceiling of ₹ 10,000/- on the maintenance paid by children to parents is under consideration in this Ministry, pursuant to the recommendation of the Group of Secretaries on Education and Social Development constituted by the Government.

(c) As per information furnished by National Legal Services Authority, a NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme 2016 has been framed to ensure that Senior Citizens (*ie.*, persons above the age of 60 years) live a life of dignity and enjoy all the benefits and facilities which are due to them.

Objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

- (i) To outline the basic right and benefits that should be accorded to senior citizens;
- (ii) To strengthen legal aid and representation at the national, state, district and taluka levels for senior citizens who are entitled under Section 12 of

the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, in availing the benefits of the various legal provisions which exist;

- (iii) To ensure access to various Government Schemes and programmes to the senior citizens;
- (iv) To ensure that the authorities and institutions such as the Tribunals and the Appellate Tribunals under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, Old Age Home for senior citizens have been established;
- (v) To create and spread awareness about the rights and entitlements of the senior citizens under the various laws and Government Schemes and programmes through the District Legal Services Authorities, Taluka Legal Services Committee, panel lawyers, para-legal volunteers, students and legal services clinics;
- (vi) To enhance capacities at all levels of panel lawyers, para-legal volunteers, volunteers in legal services clinics, Government officers tasked with the implementation of the various schemes, service providers, police personnel, non-governmental organisations by organising training, orientation and sensitization programmes; and
- (vii) To undertake research and documentation to study the various schemes, laws etc. to find out the gaps, the needs and to make suggestions to the appropriate authorities.

Making cities beggar free

2221. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to make cities and towns beggar free;
- (b) whether Government has taken up any initiative in this regard with the help of State Governments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a huge demand for making shelters for beggars across the country; and