

**Need to enhance upper income limit for granting SC/ST student scholarship**

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, with your permission, let me invite the attention of the Government to a very serious matter and injustice and discrimination.

Sir, there are several schemes and projects for the upliftment of SC/ST people and tribal people in India. One of the colourful schemes is the financial assistance to the students in the form of stipends, lumpsum grant and scholarship.

The Central Government has introduced a scholarship, a prematric scholarship scheme, for the students who are studying in 9th and 10th standards. But the eligibility criteria is that the annual income of the parents should be less than ₹ 2.5 lakhs per year.

Sir, this income criteria is an injustice. Even a scavenger family would get more than ₹ 2.5 lakhs per year. Sir, the upper income limit for the benefit of the non-creamy layer backward class communities is ₹ 8 lakhs per year. Likewise, the upper income limit for the benefit of the economically weaker sections is also ₹ 8 lakhs per year.

Sir, in Kerala, the State Government has already implemented stipend, lumpsum grant and scholarship to all SC/ST students without considering the family income of their parents.

Hence, I request the Government that steps may be taken to issue scholarship to all SC/ST students without considering the family income.

Another thing is that the amount of the scholarship is very, very meagre. It is requested that the minimum amount may be fixed as ₹ 1,000 per year because some other students from other communities who are studying in the same classes are getting ₹ 1,000 per year. So, in order to get the parity, the minimum amount should be ₹ 1,000 per year. Thank you.

SHRI ELAMARAMKAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

**कुमारी शैलजा** (हरियाणा): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

**Revival of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Company Ltd.**

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Through you, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue related to the State of Assam, North-Eastern Region, Eastern India, including Bihar.

Sir, Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation is the only fertilizer company of Assam, North-Eastern Region, Eastern India, including Bihar.

Earlier, as a part of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, they played a very important role in our agricultural revolution, in our economy. Not only that, this fertilizer company played a very important role in growing tea industry in Assam and Eastern India.

Now, Sir, this unit is an old unit. The expansion of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation, earlier which is known as Namrup Fertilizer Company, is the call of the hour. For revival, for expansion, what do we need? We need land, we need power, we need gas, we need market, and we need railway connectivity. The existing plant has a well gas connectivity. They are regularly getting gas from Oil India. There is a railway connectivity. They have their own captive power plant. They have a vast water resource. No further boring is necessary. So, everything is ready. Many times, on many occasions, many Fertilizer Ministers visited the Namrup. They always announced, 'Okay, we are going to expand this unit immediately. We will start the fourth unit of Namrup Fertilizer Plant immediately.' But nobody is doing it. Everything is there. Marketing is not a problem. Sixty per cent of the products of this industry would be consumed by the North-Eastern Region. The other 40 per cent could be easily sent to South-East Asia and to Myanmar. Everything is there, but Government's will is necessary. Without Government's will, this plan cannot be expanded. So, in the interest of the North-Eastern Region, I would request the Government to do the needful and expand this plan soon.

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.) (Haryana): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.