

[18 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

Dr. Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme

2827. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme is being implemented to give scholarships to the meritorious students from SC/ST communities;

(b) if so, details of the scheme and the scholarships given during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (till now) to male and female students, State-wise;

(c) whether the scheme is being extended to OBC and poor students also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the scheme and scholarships awarded for 2001 -02 are given in the Statements I and II respectively (See below). No scholarship could be given during the year 2002-03 as the information is being collected from the States/Uts. For the year 2003-04, the scholarships will be awarded after the declaration of results for the academic year 2003-04.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The main objective of the scheme implemented by the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation is to give financial assistance to poor meritorious SC and ST students.

Statement-I

Details of the Schemes to distribute Scholarships

Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Scheme for meritorious students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is implemented by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, set up under the aegis of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The objective of the scheme is to recognize, promote and assist the meritorious students belonging to SCs and STs for pursuing higher studies. Family income of SCs and STs students from all resources should not be more than Rs. One lakh in the preceding

financial year. The scholarship is given to three students scoring highest marks in the regular class X level examination conducting by the Education Board/Council (All 26 Boards of the Country) @ Rs. 60,000/- Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 40,000 respectively. These scholarships are separate for SCs and STs. In case none of the first three eligible students are girls, the girl student scoring the highest marks will get a special award @ Rs. 40,000/-. Keeping in view the SC and ST population of the country as per 1991 census 250 no. of special merit scholarships at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- each is given to SC/ST students securing next highest marks, after first, second and third position Scholarship is given as one time grant. 283 scholarships were awarded to SCs and STs students for the year 2001-02.

Statement-II

Details of distribution of Scholarships for the year 2001-2002

Sl. No.	State/UT/Board	SC			ST			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1	Bihar	14	3	17	2	1	3	20
2	UP	23	10	33	1	1	2	35
3	Tripura	1	3	4	3	3	6	10
4	Punjab	1	7	8	—	—	—	8
5	TamihNadu	3	10	13	—	4	4	17
6	Pondicherry	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
7	Karnataka	7	8	15	2	3	5	20
8	AP	27	9	36	8	3	11	47
9	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	5	5	5
10	Goa	1	3	4	—	—	—	4
11	West Bengal	21	1	22	7	1	8	30
12	Madhya Pradesh	6	4	10	6	6	12	22
13	Manipur	3	3	6	3	2	5	11

Sl. No.	State/UT/Board	sc			ST			Grand Total
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
14	Kerala	1	5	6	—	4	4	10
15	Gujarat	6	—	6	5	4	9	15
16	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	4	2	2	4	8
17	Meghalaya	—	—	—	2	2	4	4
18	Haryana	4	2	6	2	1	3	9
19	Nagaland	—	2	2	2	3	5	7
TOTAL:		120	73	193	45	45	90	283

Determination of age of senior citizens

2828. SHRIYADLAPATIVENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no uniformity in definition of senior citizens in the country resulting in a lot of confusions;

(b) whether as per the railway concession fare, the age for senior citizens is 60 years and for income tax purposes a senior citizen has to be of 65 years and similarly in the forthcoming LIC scheme the senior citizen has to be of 55 years; and

(c) whether Government would consider this issue and bring about a uniformity in the matter of age of a senior citizen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The National Policy on Older Persons announced by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in the year 1999 recognises a person who has attained the age of 60 plus as a senior citizen. However, for extending facilities/benefits/concessions to the senior citizens, the different Ministries/Departments concerned have taken their own decision as regards the age criteria of senior citizens based on commercial and other considerations.

(b) Yes, Sir.