

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2315
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2018**

POST-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR SC STUDENTS

**2315. SHRI LADU KISHORE SWAIN:
SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that huge amount of arrears have accumulated under the post-matric scholarship scheme for SC students in various States including Odisha and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for releasing the pending amount expeditiously;
- (c) whether the Departmentally Related Standing Committee had calculated the amount that would be required to clear the backlog to the tune of Rs. 8000 crore, however, the allocation made is Rs. 2732 crore against the demand of Rs. 11407 crore in 2016-17; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)**

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste students (PMS-SC) is an open ended scheme, with no limit on the number of eligible beneficiaries and amount of tuition fees that can be charged by the Educational Institutions. Inadequate funding for the scheme over the years has resulted in accumulation of huge pending arrears in various states including the state of Odisha. This Department informed the Departmentally related Standing Committee that the arrear under Post matric Scholarship Scheme to SC student at the end of 2016-17 would be more than Rs. 8000 crore. As per recommendation of the Standing Committee, Ministry of Finance was requested for additional allocation of funds. The Budget Estimate under this scheme for 2016-17 of Rs. 2791.00 crores was increased to Rs. 3347.99 crore for 2017-18.

A proposal for additional allocation of funds to clear the arrear alongwith appraisal/continuation of this scheme was placed before Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) on 6.6.2017. Based on the recommendation of EFC, a proposal has been prepared for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
