

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1168
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2024**

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

1168. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:

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

- (a) the reasons for withholding the degrees of SC students who are eligible for the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme by educational institutions;
- (b) the extent to which the Government proposes to address the financial disputes between colleges and the State Government of Punjab that are resulting in delays in grant/disbursement and subsequent withholding of students' degrees;
- (c) the details of measures implemented to ensure SC students receive their scholarships on time, thereby preventing any impact on their academic progression and employment opportunities; and
- (d) whether the Government has initiated any investigations into the management and disbursement of funds under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme to identify systemic issues contributing to these delays?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a): No instance of withholding the degree of SC students who are eligible for the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been received from any State Governments/UTs except in the State of Punjab through Writ Petitions filed by the students who were not given degrees. Presently, the said matter is sub-judice.

(b) & (c): This Ministry had issued letters dated 8th June,2020 and 17th September,2020 for the State Government of Punjab to release all scholarships due to the eligible beneficiaries.

In addition, State Government of Punjab has informed that they have issued instructions vide letters dated 12.08.2022, 25.07.2024 and 08.08.2024 not to withhold degrees of the students.

(d): A comprehensive review of the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for SCs was undertaken and the same was revised w.e.f 2020-21. The salient feature of the revised Scheme includes online end to end processing, verification of eligibility criteria through online mode to ensure greater transparency, prevent duplicity and wrongful claims by the Institutions. The Scheme facilitates verification process digitally, using the authenticated databases automatically with little or no manual intervention.
