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Title: Need to release funds under Post Matric Scholarship scheme to facilitate eligible students at the time of admission to higher educational institutions.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Post-Matric Scholarship scheme, devised by the Centre and implemented through states, covers the compulsory non-refundable fee i.e. fee charged towards registration/enrolment, tuition, games, union and library membership, medical examination and any other fee compulsorily payable, apart from a host of other fees. Besides there is a scheme for first generation graduates under which the Govt. takes care of tuition fee, which is now Rs.45,000. The ceiling for annual parental income for SC/ST student is Rs. two lakh, whereas the ceiling for BC/MBC student is Rs.one lakh. More than their level of awareness regarding this scheme, the serious problem being faced by students is that they are in no condition to remit the fees on their own at the time of admission. The Managements of private colleges to which several students have gained admission are not ready to admit them without collecting the fees even if they know that they will be able to get the fees reimbursed by the Govt as such students are eligible for coverage under the scholarship scheme or the other. This year most private self-financing engineering colleges have asked the student to pay the fees latest by August 14 2012. The question that is being asked among the general public is as to how can they pay admission fee (approx. Rs.72000-88500) when their families struggle for daily sustenance? Self-financing colleges however take a stand that the funds transfer from the Government invariably come late. In short, the scholarship scheme benefits elude poor SC/ST students in view of their struggle to pay fee and delayed reimbursement.

Therefore, it is requested that the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development may take steps for the release of funds earmarked for these students, in advance preferably at the time of release of list of selected candidates itself or the colleges be resisted from pressurizing the students to pay the fee immediately so that the down-trodden and poor Adi-dravida students community would stand really benefi~tted without facing the initial torture of the shelling out the fees at the time of admission itself.