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Title: Need to release the backlog amount of Central Assistance under post-matric scholarship scheme to Government of Odisha.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): As you are aware that Odisha Government has been offering highest priority to education of weaker section of society particularly SC/ST students. I would draw your kind attention to the issue that Central assistance released from Tribal welfare Ministry towards Post-Matric scholarship to SC students has been grossly inadequate since 2014-2015. This has created significant arrears received from the said Ministry and progressive outstanding dues amount to Rs. 121.17 crores in 2014-15.

Since huge gap in receipt of central assistance against the actual requirement is not only putting the economically poor SC students to hardship but also posing serious challenges to state Government in managing the grievances to helpless students.

In order to ensure that the arrears of SC students do not affect them, the State Government has incurred the expenditure out of their own budget provision for 2015-16 to meet the arrears claim of 2014-15. One can understand how much the state government is concerned with the problems of SC students.

Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to release the backlog amount under the post-matric scholarship scheme to Government of Odisha.