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Title: Need to fund post matric scholarship scheme in Tamilnadu in 60:40 ratio between the centre and the state.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance regarding Post Matric Scholarship Scheme to the students belonging to the SCs and STs.

Knowing full well that social and economic upliftment of under-privileged sections of the society is possible only by ensuring their educational progress, the Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing the PostMatric Scholarship Scheme to the students of SC/ST community, which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Unfortunately, the Centre, through a revision in its guidelines, had notified that the fees claimed by students who took admission against Management Quota/Spot Admission would not be reimbursed with effect from April this year. In Tamil Nadu, a large number of students were availing this benefit which led to tremendous growth in the Gross Enrolment Ratio. But due to revision in guidelines, the poor SC students would not be able to pursue higher and technical education, which may cause serious resentment and unrest among this community.

Another issue is the sharing pattern between the Centre and the State. Presently, expenditure under this scheme, at the end of the five years, is taken as the committed liability, which was Rs.353.55crore in 2011-12. But from 2017-18, it has risen to Rs.1,526.46 crore, which puts unbearable burden on the State's finances.

Hence, I request the Government to fund this scheme in 60:40 ratio between the Centre and the State. Further, release of funds by the Centre to Tamil Nadu over the years has been delayed and inadequate. Till 2017-18, the Government, of Tamil Nadu is to receive arrears of

Rs.1579.58 crore from the Indian Govt. Hence, I request the Government, of India to release this amount immediately for the welfare of the poor SC students.