

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 17.12.2015 of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"I write to seek your personal intervention for the urgent release of the Government of India's share towards the disbursement of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu, which now totals Rs.1549.76 crores for the period up to 2015-16.

Tamil Nadu is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes pursuing higher studies in recognized institutions. Under this scheme, 100 per cent Central Assistance is provided to all States/UTs beyond the committed liability. In 2015-16, the Government of Tamil Nadu has to incur a total expenditure of Rs.1295.55 crores towards Post Matric Scholarships, out of which Rs.942 crores is the Government of India's share. For the period up to 2014-15, arrears totalling Rs.1175.10 crores were pending. During 2015-16, so far, only Rs.567.34 crores has been released by the Government of India, leaving a total balance of Rs.1549.76 crores.

I have been informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has admitted the claims of Tamil Nadu under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme, but is unable to release the funds to the State due to insufficient budgetary allocations. You would appreciate that timely release of scholarships is very essential to keep the students, most of whom are from very poor families, adequately motivated to pursue their studies. Delay in the disbursement of scholarship undermines the credibility of the scheme. This is clearly a very important scheme to enable the weaker sections to move forward in life through education.

Given the importance and sensitivity of this scheme, I request that the Ministry of Finance may be directed to provide adequate funds to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to release the entire pending central share of Rs.1549.76 crores due to Tamil Nadu, including the balance amount of Rs.607.76 crores due for the period up to 2014-15, and the sum of Rs.942 crores due for the year 2015-16 under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme.
