

File No.11014/21/2006-BC-I
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated : 11th August, 2011

To

The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries in-Charge of OBC Welfare,
All States/UTs

Subject: Revision of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for students belonging to OBCs (PMS-OBC).

Sir,

The Government of India has been implementing the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship to students belonging to OBCs since 1998. It aims to provide financial assistance to students belonging to OBCs for pursuing post-matriculation courses through recognized institutions. Under the Scheme, Central Assistance is provided on 100% basis to all States/UTs over and above their respective "committed liability" except in the case of North Eastern States, which are exempted from committed liability.

2. Components of the Scheme include:
 - (i) maintenance allowance;
 - (ii) reimbursement of non-refundable compulsory fee charged by educational institutions; and
 - (iii) certain other allowances.

3. The Scheme has now been revised **w.e.f. 01.07.2011**. The revision consists of the following:-
 - I. Changes in (i) income ceiling; (ii) grouping of courses; and (iii) rates of maintenance and other allowances, as per details given in para 4 below, and
 - II. The Scheme was, to begin with, meant to be open-ended, but has, in practice, been implemented subject to allocation available for it. This "Funds-Limited" nature is now being formalized, as per details given in para 5 below.

4. The changes effective from **01.07.2011** are summarized below:

Sl. No.	Item / Component	Present Provision / Rates (with relevant Section / para of the existing Scheme)	Revised Provision / Rates (w.e.f. 01.07.2011)
1.	Ceiling on family income	(Para III) Rs.44,500/- p.a.	Rs.1 lakh p.a.
2.	Grouping of Courses	<p>(Para IV)</p> <p>Group A Medical /Engineering including Degree level Courses in Indian Medicine, B.A.M&S and Comparable courses in Ayurveda, Unani/ Tibbia and Homeopathic System of Medicines. B.Sc (Agriculture/B.V.Sc/B.F.Sc (Fisheries) Higher technical and all professional studies like Degree and Post-matric courses in Agricultural and Veterinary Science.</p> <p>Group B Diploma level courses in Indian Medicine and Comparable courses in Ayurvedic, Unani/Tibbia and Homeopathic system of Medicine.</p> <p>Diploma & comparable courses in Engineering, Technology, Architecture, medicine, diploma level Courses in printing technology and courses for Overseer, draftsman, surveyor, Commercial Pilot License, Diploma and higher courses in Hotel Management catering technology and applied Nutrition.</p> <p>Degree and post-graduate course in nursing and pharmacy.</p> <p>Wireless and television operators/ sound recording and sound engineering motion picture, photography, film direction/acting. screenplay/writing/Degree/post graduate Diploma courses in business management, Chartered and Cost /Works Accountancy.</p>	<p>Group A (i) Degree and Post Graduate level courses including M.Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral research in Medicine (Allopathic, Indian and other recognized systems of medicines), Engineering, Technology, Planning, Architecture, Design, Fashion Technology, Agriculture, Veterinary & Allied Sciences, Management, Business Finance/ Administration, Computer Science/Applications. (ii) Commercial Pilot License (including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating) course. (iii) Post Graduate Diploma courses in various branches of management & medicine. (iv) C.A./I.C.W.A./C.S./I.C.F.A. etc. (v) M. Phil., Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Programmes (D. Litt., D.Sc. etc.). (vi) L.L.M.</p> <p>Group B Graduate/Post/Graduate courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B. Pharma), Nursing (B Nursing), LLB, BFS, other para-medical branches like rehabilitation diagnostics etc., Mass Communication, Hotel Management & Catering, Travel/Tourism/ Hospitality Management, interior Decoration, Nutrition & Dietetics, Commercial Art, Financial Services (e.g. Banking, Insurance, Taxation etc.) for which entrance qualification is minimum Sr. Secondary (10+2).</p>

Sl. No.	Item / Component	Present Provision / Rates (with relevant Section / para of the existing Scheme)	Revised Provision / Rates (w.e.f. 01.07.2011)
		<p>Post Graduate courses in Science subjects.</p> <p>Group C Certificate courses in Engineering/Technology/Architecture and Medicine, Diploma and Certificate courses in Agriculture, Pharmacy, veterinary Science, Fisheries, Dairy development, Hygiene and Public Health , sanitary Inspector's Course, courses for Rural services, Cooperation and Community development, Sub-Officer' course at the national Fire Service College, Nagpur, Library Science.</p> <p>Degree /Post Graduate Diploma and Post Graduate Courses in Teachers' training, Library Science and Physical Education , Music Fine Arts and Law, Craft Instructor's Training Course, Certificate Course in Hotel Management/Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Passenger transport Management, Associate degree I Pharmacy , Post graduate courses in Arts and Commerce subjects.</p> <p>Group D General Courses upto Graduate levelnd (2 year and onward)</p> <p>Group E Classes X1th and X11th in 10+2 System Intermediate courses and first year of General courses upto graduate level.</p>	<p>(ii) Post Graduate courses not covered under Group A e.g. MA/M.Sc./M.Com/ M.Ed./M.Pharma etc.</p> <p>Group C All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group A & B e.g. BA/B.Sc./ B.Com etc.</p> <p>Group D All post-matriculation level non-degree courses for which entrance qualification is High School (Class X), e.g. senior secondary certificate (class XI and XII); both general and vocational stream, ITI courses, 3 year diploma courses in Polytechnics, etc.</p>

Sl. No.	Item / Component	Present Provision / Rates (with relevant Section / para of the existing Scheme)	Revised Provision / Rates (w.e.f. 01.07.2011)																																				
3	Maintenance Allowance (Rs. per month)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">(Para IV)</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Day Scholars</th> <th>Hosteller</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group A</td> <td>190/-</td> <td>425/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group B</td> <td>190/-</td> <td>290/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group C</td> <td>190/-</td> <td>290/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group D</td> <td>120/-</td> <td>230/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group E</td> <td>90/-</td> <td>150/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(Para IV)				Day Scholars	Hosteller	Group A	190/-	425/-	Group B	190/-	290/-	Group C	190/-	290/-	Group D	120/-	230/-	Group E	90/-	150/-	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Day Scholars</th> <th>Hosteller</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Group A</td> <td>350/-</td> <td>750/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group B</td> <td>335/-</td> <td>510/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group C</td> <td>210/-</td> <td>400/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group D</td> <td>160/-</td> <td>260/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Day Scholars	Hosteller	Group A	350/-	750/-	Group B	335/-	510/-	Group C	210/-	400/-	Group D	160/-	260/-
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4	Other Allowances	(Para IV)																																					
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4.1	Study Tour charges	500/- p.a. (subject to actual expenditure)	900/- p.a. (subject to actual expenditure)																																				
4.2	Thesis Typing & Printing charges	600/- (Maximum)	1000/- (Maximum)																																				
4.3	Book Allowance for correspondence course	500/- p.a.	900/- p.a.																																				
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4.5	Scholarship for CPL Course	Maintenance allowance at the rates applicable to Group B courses, in addition to all compulsory fees including fee for flight charges. The number of awards for CPL will be 20 per annum on first-cum-first-serve basis.	Rs.5,000/- per flying hour in single/multiengine aircraft for 200 hours, as per DGCA approved rates. In addition, maintenance allowance at the rates applicable to Group 'A' courses will be provided (This will be subject to the candidate undergoing the CPL training in DGCA approved flying institutions and his confirmation to meet the balance of the cost on his own). The number of awards for CPL will be 20 per annum on first-cum-first serve basis.																																				

5. “Funds-Limited” nature of the revised Scheme & Procedure for Capping

Even under the existing PMS-OBC Scheme, due to budgetary constraint, in practice, it has not been possible for the Central Government to provide assistance for giving scholarship to all eligible students. Therefore, a notional allocation (NA) under the Scheme was being conveyed at the beginning of the financial year since 2008-09 to States/UTs having OBC population, in proportion to their total population as per census and they were being requested to send proposals within the NA. As mentioned in para 3(II) above, this is now being formalized under the revised Scheme, as per broad procedure outlined below:-

- (i) At the beginning of the financial year, notional allocation(NA) of funds of States/UTs will be made by this Ministry, from the overall annual outlay of the Scheme, on the basis of population of each State/UT, excluding States/UTs having no notified list of OBCs (viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Lakshadweep).
- (ii) States/UTs will sub-allocate their NA, district-wise and group-wise, for all non-professional courses. However, such sub-allocation would not be necessary for professional courses, as institutions of professional education tend to be concentrated in major cities/centres. The State Government is expected to lay down criteria for selection for award of scholarship under both types of courses – professional and non-professional, to the extent of available funds, based on merit-cum-means.
- (iii) States will earmark at least 25% of the total outlay under the Scheme for Group D courses which include, Class-XI and XII and all other post-matriculation level non-degree courses, diploma courses in polytechnics etc. Such earmarking would encourage more OBC students to join entry-level courses of tertiary education which would enable them subsequently to take up courses leading to higher qualifications.
- (iv) States/UTs will incur expenditure under the Scheme at least to the extent of “Central assistance or NA plus their committed liability”, and should normally limit the number of scholarships accordingly. However, they would be free to allocate funds from the State-Plan, over and above the level of their committed liability plus the Central Assistance received, for funding additional scholarships under the Scheme. Any such additional expenditure will have to be borne by the State Government/UT Administration itself, over and above their committed liability, and will generally not be eligible for reimbursement from the Centre. However, additional expenditure incurred by a State/UT beyond the level of Central Assistance may be considered for reimbursement by the Central Government, to the extent of availability of savings (mainly from States which are not able to fully avail of their notional allocation, for any reason), towards the end of a financial year.

- (v) Central assistance given to a State/UT would have to be first utilized to cover renewal cases (i.e students already awarded scholarships during the previous years against Central Assistance), and only the balance amount left may be utilized to cover new cases.

The above lays down the broad principles and procedure for implementing the “Capping” feature. Each State Government may please work out its State-specific detailed modalities for implementing the “Capping” feature of the revised PMS-OBC Scheme, keeping in view the above broad principles/ procedure and its own circumstances, and send to this Ministry a copy of its guidelines issued in this behalf to the implementing agencies - as far as possible, with the first request for Central Assistance under the revised Scheme, and failing that, as soon thereafter as possible.

6. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, recurring expenditure of the last year of a Five Year Plan gets transferred to States as their committed liability, from the first year of the next Five Year Plan. In the instant case, however, as the revision is taking place in the last year of the XI Five Year Plan, Government of India have decided, as a special case, that **additional committed liability arising on account of the revision of the Scheme w.e.f. 01.07.2011 shall be passed on to the States / UTs at the end of the XII Five Year Plan (i.e. w.e.f. 01.04.2017) and not at the end of the XI Plan.** However, committed liability as per old scholarship rates, at the end of the XI Plan, will get transferred to States / UTs with effect from 1.4.2012, as per past practice.

7. Other provisions of the Scheme remain unchanged.

8. State Governments/UTs, which have already sent proposals for 2011-12, are requested to revise their proposal for Central Assistance in 2011-12, in the light of the provisions contained in para 4 of this letter, and send the revised proposal to this Ministry, so as to reach the undersigned (by name), as early as possible but in any case, by 15th September, 2011. In case the proposal for Central Assistance under the Scheme for the 2011-12 has not yet been sent, it may now please be sent, in the light of the above revision, by the above date, to enable the Ministry to release Central Assistance at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/
(P.P. Mitra)
Joint Secretary