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Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 18th September, 2018

To

The Secretaries/Principal Secretaries
OBC Welfare Department
All State Government/UT Administration

Subject: Revised Guidelines for "Revision and Continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Post-Matric Scholarship for the students belonging to Other Backward Classes for studies in India" w.e.f. September, 2018 – reg.

Sir/Madam,


I am directed to enclose herewith both versions (i.e. Hindi and English) of the 'Revised Guidelines' of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the students belonging to Other Backward Classes for studies in India. The following main amendments have been made in the revised guidelines:

- (i) Annual parental income have been revised from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 1.50 lakh.
- (ii) 30% of funds earmarked for girl students and 5% for students with disabilities.
- (iii) The concept of Committed Liability will not apply to States/UTs from FY 2018-19 and funds will be released to States/UTs based on Notional Allocation. States/UTs are liable to make provisions for funds over and above Central Assistance to cover all eligible students from their own Budget.

2. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl: A copy of both versions of Revised Guidelines

Yours sincerely,


(S. S. Kumar) 18/9/2018

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**Centrally Sponsored Scheme of
Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students for studying in India**

(Revised w.e.f. September 2018)

Scheme Guidelines:

I. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.

II. SCOPE

These scholarships shall be available for studies in India only and will be awarded by the Government of State/Union Territory to which the applicant actually belongs, i.e. permanently settled.

III. CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

- i. The scholarships will be open to Indian nationals belonging to OBCs, as notified by the Central Govt./State Govt./ UT Admn.;
- ii. These scholarships will be given for the study of all recognized post-matriculation or post-secondary courses pursued in recognized institutions as specified in para IV(i).
- iii. Only those candidates who belong to OBCs so specified in relation to the State/UT to which the applicant actually belongs, i.e. permanently settled and who have passed the Matriculation or Higher secondary or any higher examination of a recognized University or Board of Secondary Education will be eligible.
- iv. Candidates who, after passing one stage of education, are studying in the same stage of education in different subject e.g. I. Sc. after I.A or B.Com. after B.A. or M.A. in a subject after M.A in another subject will not be eligible.
- v. Students who, after having completed their educational career in one professional line, e.g., LLB after B.T/B. Ed will not be eligible.
- vi. Students studying in XI Class of the Higher Secondary School courses or the XII class of the Multipurpose High School will not be eligible for it being a continuous school course. However, in cases, where tenth class examination of such courses is treated as equivalent to Matriculation and students who after passing tenth class join other courses, such students will be treated as post-matric students and will be eligible for the award of scholarships.
- vii. Students pursuing Post-graduate courses in medicine will be eligible only if they are not allowed to practice during the period of their course.
- viii. Students who after failing or passing the Under Graduate/Post-Graduate examinations in Arts/Science/Commerce join any recognized professional or Technical certificate/diploma/degree courses will be awarded scholarships if otherwise eligible. No subsequent failure will be condoned except for courses in Group 'A' and no further change in the course will be allowed thereafter.
- ix. Students who pursue their studies through correspondence courses will be eligible towards reimbursement of non-refundable fee. The term correspondence includes distant and continuing education. Besides reimbursement of non-refundable fee, such students will also be eligible for an annual allowance of Rs. 900/- for essential/prescribed books, as applicable.

- x. Scholarships should be restricted upto two boys of the same parents/guardian. This restriction will, however, not apply to girls.
- xi. A scholarship holder under this Scheme will not hold any other scholarship/stipend. If awarded any other scholarship/stipend, the students can exercise his/her option for either of the two scholarships/stipends, whichever is more beneficial to him/her and should inform the awarding authority through the Head of the Institution about the option made. No scholarship will be paid to the students under this Scheme from the date he/she accepts any other scholarships/stipend. The student can however, accept free lodging or a grant or ad-hoc monetary help from the State Government or any other source for the purchase of books, equipment or for meeting the expenses on board and lodging, in addition to the scholarship amount paid under the Scheme.
- xii. Scholarship holders who are receiving coaching in any of the pre-examination training centers with financial assistance from the Central Government/State Government will not be eligible for stipend under the coaching schemes for the duration of the coaching programme.
- xiii. Employed students whose income combined with the income of their parents/guardians does not exceed Rs. 1.50 lakh per annum shall be eligible for post-matric scholarship to the extent of reimbursement of all compulsorily payable non-refundable fee.
- xiv. Unemployed students whose parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 1.50 lakh per annum will be entitled for the scholarship under the Scheme.

Note 1: So long as either of the parents (or husband in the case of married unemployed girl students) are alive, only income of the parents/husband, as the case may be, from all sources has to be taken into account and of no other members even though they may be earning. In the form of income declaration, income is to be declared on this basis. Only in the case where both the parents or husband in the case of married but unemployed girl student have died, the income of the guardian who is supporting the student in his/her studies has to be taken into consideration. Such students whose parent's income is affected due to death of one of earning parents and resultanty comes within the income ceiling prescribed under the scheme, shall become eligible for scholarship, subject to their fulfilling other conditions of eligibility, from the month in which such death takes place. The applications for the scholarship from such students can be considered even after lapse of last date of receipt of applications, on compassionate grounds.

Note 2: House Rent Allowance received by the parents of a student be exempted from the computation of 'income' if the same has been permitted to be exempted for purpose of Income-Tax.

Note 3: Income Certificate is required to be taken once only, i.e. at the time of admission of courses, which are continuing for more than one year.

IV. VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The value of scholarship will include Maintenance Allowance, Reader Charges for blind students, reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fee, Study Tour Charges/thesis typing/printing charges and book allowance for students pursuing correspondence course, for complete duration of the course as per details given below:-

i) Maintenance Allowance		
Course of (1)	(Rs. Per Month) Rate of Maintenance Allowance	
	Hostellers (2)	Day Scholars (3)
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 courses from GOI Institutes including helicopter pilot and multiengine rating (Maximum 20 slots per annum) - In addition to maintenance allowance, an amount of Rs.5,000/- per flying hour for maximum 200 hours will be paid by the State Govt./UT with the approval of the Government of India. (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.	750	350
Group-B		
(i) Graduate/Post/Graduate courses leading to Degree, Diploma, Certificate in areas like Pharmacy (B. Pharma), Nursing (B Nursing), LLB, BFS, other paramedical 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). (ii) Post Graduate courses not covered under Group A e.g. MA/M.Sc./M.Com/ M.Ed./M.Pharma etc.	510	335
Group-C		
All other courses leading to a graduate degree not covered under Group A & B e.g. BA/B.Sc./B.Com etc.	400	210

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.

260

160

Note : Scholars who are entitled to free boarding and/or lodging will be paid maintenance charges at 1/3rd of hostellers' rate.

ii) Reader Charges for blind students (Blind Scholars)

The blind scholars will be given additional amount as 'Readers Charges' as mentioned below:-

Group	Reader Allowance (Rs. P.m.)
Group A,B	175
Group C	130
Group D	90

iii) Fees

Scholars will be paid enrolment/registration, tuition, games, union, library, magazine, medical examination and such other fees compulsorily payable by the scholar to the institution or University/Board. Refundable deposit-like caution money, security deposit will, however, be excluded.

iv) Study Tours

Study tour charges upto a maximum of Rs. 900/- per annum limited to the actual expenditure incurred by the student on transportation charges etc., will be paid to the scholars studying professional and technical courses, provided that the head of the institution certifies that the study tour is essential for the scholar for completion of his/her course of study.

v) Thesis Typing /Printing charges

Thesis typing/printing charges upto a maximum of Rs. 1000 will be paid to research scholars on the recommendation of the Head of the Institution.

V. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

All the eligible Other Backward Classes candidates will be given scholarships subject to the condition of eligibility prescribed in para III of this Scheme. Candidates belonging to one State, but studying in another State, will be awarded scholarship by the State to which they belong and will submit their applications to the competent authorities in that State. In the matter of exemption from fee or other concessions also, they will be treated as studying in their own State.

VI. DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARDS

- i. The award once made will be tenable from the stage at which it is given to the completion of course subject to good conduct and regularity in attendance. It will be renewed from year to year if the course is continuing for a number of years, the scholar secures promotion to the next higher class irrespective of the fact whether such examinations are conducted by a University or the Institution.
- ii. If an OBC scholar is pursuing Group A course fails in the examination for the first time, the award may be renewed. For second and subsequent failures in any class the student shall bear his/her own expenses until he/she secures promotion to the next higher class.
- iii. If a scholar is unable to appear in the annual examination owing to illness and/or on account of any other unforeseeable event, the award may be renewed for the next academic year on submission of medical certificate and/or other required sufficient proof to the satisfaction of the Head of the Institution and his/her certifying that the scholar would have passed had he appeared in the examination.
- iv. If according to the Regulations of a University/Institution, a student is promoted to the next higher class even though he/she may not have actually passed in lower class and is required to take examination of the junior class again after sometime, he/she will be entitled to scholarship for the class to which he/she is promoted if the student is otherwise eligible for scholarship.

VII. PAYMENT

- i. Maintenance charges shall be payable from 1st April or from the month of admission, whichever is later, to the month in which the examination are completed at the end of the academic year (including maintenance during holidays) provided that the scholar secures admission after the 20th day of a month, the amount will be made from the month following the month of admission.
- ii. In case of renewal of scholarships awarded in the previous years, maintenance charges will be paid from the month following the month up to which scholarship was paid in the previous year, if the course of study is continuous.
- iii. All scholars are expected to purchase the necessary text books, stationary etc., out of the maintenance allowance sanctioned. If it is reported by the Head of the concerned Institution that a scholar is without text-books stationary etc., the value of the scholarship may be reduced at the discretion of the authority sanctioning the scholarship.
- iv. The scholarship money will be paid to the selected students by the government of the State/Union Territory's Administration to which they belong in accordance with the procedure laid down by them in this regard.
- v. Scholarship will not be paid for the period of internship/ housemanship in the M.B.B.S. course or for a practical training in other course if the student is in receipt of some remuneration during the internship period or some allowance/stipend during the practical training in other course.
- vi. 30% of the funds allocated earmarked for girl students and 5% for students with disabilities.

- vii. Depending on availability of funds, first preference in disbursement of scholarships would be given to students of Government institutions and then to students of Government aided institutions and thereafter disbursement will be made to the students of unaided private institutions.

VIII. MODE OF DISBURSEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

In order to ensure timely payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries, the State Government/UT administrations are requested to avoid cash payment of scholarship amount and are required to issue instructions to all concerned that payment of scholarship should be made to beneficiaries through their accounts in post offices/banks. DBT mode should be followed by the States/UTs. Disbursement of Scholarship through Aadhaar seeded bank accounts should be ensured by the States/UTs.

IX. OTHER CONDITIONS FOR THE AWARD

- i. The scholarship is provided on the basis of satisfactory progress and conduct of the scholars. If it is reported by the Head of the Institution at any time that a scholar has, by reasons of his/her own act or default, failed to make satisfactory progress or has been guilty of misconduct such as resorting to or participating in strikes, irregularity in attendance without the permission of the authorities concerned etc., the authority sanctioning the scholarships may either cancel the scholarship or stop or withhold further payment of scholarship for such period as it may think fit.
- ii. If a student is found to have obtained a scholarship by false statement his/her scholarship will be cancelled forthwith and the amount of the scholarship paid will be recovered, at the discretion of the concerned State Government. The student concerned will be blacklisted and debarred for scholarship under any schemes forever.
- iii. A scholarship awarded may be cancelled if the scholar changes the subject of the course of study for which the scholarship were originally awarded or changes the institution of study, without prior approval of the State Government. The Head of the institution shall inform such cases to the scholar and stop payment of the scholarship money. The amount already paid may also be recovered at the discretion of the State Government.
- iv. A scholar is liable to refund the scholarship amount at the discretion of the State Government, if during the course of the year, the studies for which the scholarship has been awarded, is discontinued by him/her.
- v. The provisions of the scheme can be changed at any time at the discretion of the Government of India.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SCHEME

All the State Governments/UT Adms. will announce in the month of May-June, the details of the Scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in the leading newspapers of the State and through other media outfits. All requests for application forms and other particulars should be addressed to the concerned State/UT to which students actually belong. The applicant should submit the completed application to the prescribed authority before the last date prescribed for receipt of applications.

XI. PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING

- i) An application for scholarship to the prescribed authority should comprise:
 - a. One copy of the application for scholarship in the prescribed form (separate application form may be prescribed by concerned State Government/UT for 'fresh' and 'renewal' scholarship).
 - b. One copy of the passport size photograph with signatures of the student thereon (for fresh scholarship)
 - c. One attested copy each of certificates/diploma/degree etc., in respect of all examination passed.
 - d. A certificate (in original) of Caste signed by an authorized Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar.
 - e. An income declaration by the parents/guardians, stating definite income from all sources by way of income certification from employer along with the affidavit on non-Judicial Stamp Paper.
 - f. A receipt in acknowledgement of the scholarship in the previous year on the form attached to the application duly countersigned by the Head of the Institution concerned, if the applicant was in receipt of a scholarship under this Scheme in the preceding year.
- ii) In case of online mode of application, the procedure of application may vary as the application is required to be filled online and the documents needs to be uploaded on the website as notified by the prescribed authority of the concerned State/UT.
- iii) Application complete in all respect shall be submitted to the Head of the Institution being attended or last attended by the candidates and shall be addressed to an officer specified for this purpose by the State Government /Union Territory Administration to which the student belongs in accordance with the instructions issued by them from time to time.

XII. FUNDS-LIMITED' NATURE OF THE REVISED SCHEME

Due to budgetary constraint and 'funds limited' nature of the existing PMS-OBC Scheme, it is not possible for the Central Government to meet the entire demand of the States/UTs. Therefore, a Notional Allocation (NA) under the Scheme is 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 are being requested to send proposals within the notional allocation, as per the procedure outlined below:-

- i. At the beginning of the financial year, notional allocation 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. Such sub-allocation would not be necessary for professional courses, as institutions of professional education tend to be concentrated in major cities/centres. However, 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. 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.
- v. The proposal for Central Assistance should be accompanied with the details of physical and financial progress in the prescribed performa.
- vi. As the total demand of the States/UTs cannot be covered under the Central Assistance, the States/UTs shall provide remaining scholarship grants to the eligible students from their own budget.

XIII. FUNDING PATTERN OF THE SCHEME

The Scheme is being implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which receive central assistance from Government of India under the Scheme. The concept of Committed Liability will not apply to States/UTs from the year 2018-19 onwards. States/UTs are liable to make provisions for funds over and above Central Assistance to cover all eligible students.

XIV. MONITORING

The monitoring of the financial and physical performance of the Scheme will be done through seeking detailed information from the agencies implementing the Scheme and for the physical aspects the agencies implementing will be required to furnish Quarterly Progress Reports regarding the number of beneficiaries receiving award under the Scheme, both class-wise and gender-wise. On the financial side, details of actual expenditure incurred during the last financial year and expenditure proposed for the present financial year will be submitted by the agencies concerned. The agencies implementing the scheme will also be insisted upon to submit the latest audited accounts.

XV. EVALUATION

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment will get the scheme evaluated by entrusting a research study to reputed institutions/agencies, on the performance of the Scheme in different parts of the country, under this Ministry's Scheme of Research and Training.
