

An Evaluation of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme provided to the tribal students of Darjeeling Municipality

Marsha Lama

Department of Political Science, Southfield College,
District Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101, India

Abstract

The Tribals are the most backward ethnic group in India and their status is even worse than that of the Scheduled Castes, another backward group in India. The rate of literacy is still low and economy is primitive. The Constitution of India incorporates special provisions for the promotion of educational and economic interest of Scheduled Tribes. Out of the many educational development schemes for Scheduled Tribes being promoted by the Central and a State government is the Post- Matric Scholarship Scheme. The study of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme is undertaken in order to study the level of educational development of tribal community inhabiting in the areas of Darjeeling Municipality of Darjeeling District with special emphasis on the evaluation of the Post Matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Tribe students of the Darjeeling Municipality of academic session 2017-18.

Keywords: *Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, Scheduled Tribes, Darjeeling Municipality, Education.*

1. Introduction

The Tribals are the most backward ethnic group in India and their status is even worse than that of the Scheduled Castes, another backward group in India. The rate of literacy is still low and economy is primitive. Since Education is the most important element in the development of any community, also it is an input not only for their economic development, but also for promoting in them self confidence and inner strength to face the new challenges. Due to socio-historical and geographical isolation socio-economic development has bypassed them, so Central and State Governments have adopted many affirmative actions and strategies for their protection, welfare and development.

The Constitution of India incorporates special provisions for the promotion of educational and economic interest of Scheduled Tribes. These objectives are sought to be achieved through a strategy known as Tribal Sub-Plan strategy. Besides the States and Central Ministries/Departments formulate and implement Tribal Sub Plan for achieving socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing several schemes and programmes for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes.

The social empowerment is being carried out through educational development and promotion by the implementation of various educational development schemes/ programme. Out of the many educational development schemes of Scheduled Tribes being promoted by the Central and a State government, the Post- Matric Scholarships Scheme is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which was initiated before Independence in 1944. The scheme objective is to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students at Post Matriculation so as to enable them to complete their education.[1]

Although at present the tribal population in India, in West Bengal and Darjeeling district within West Bengal has made some significant progress in the field of education but still they do lag way behind in comparison to the general population. The tribal population in India as enumerated by the Census of India, 2011 is about 10.43 crores, constituting 8.6% of the country's total population. About 87 percent of the total tribal population is concentrated in the central belt, covering 8 states viz. Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. As per 2011 census the total tribal population in West Bengal has been 5,296,953 constituting 5.5 percent of the total population of the state. The total population of the Darjeeling District as stated as per 2011 census, is 16,09,172 of which the Scheduled Tribes population is 397,389 which is

12.69 percent of the total population of the Darjeeling District and 4.63 percent of the total tribal population of West Bengal. [3]

2. Origin of the research problem:

Although many works has been done upon the tribals of Darjeeling District, especially the Darjeeling hills in West Bengal, many of them were monographic studies like 'Descriptive Ethnology of Bengal' by Dalton [4], 'Tribes and Castes of Bengal' by Risley[9], 'Himalayan village' by Gorer[6], 'The Meches and the Totos of North Bengal' by Charu Chandra Sanyal[10], 'Himalayan Lepchas' by R.N. Thakur [13] , 'The Indo-Tibetans' by Fr. Matthias Hermanns[8], and 'A concise history of the Darjeeling district' by E.C. Dozey[5], 'B for Bengal T for tribes' by Krishnapriya Bhattacharya[2]. These works were mostly ethnographic description of the tribals. [7] in his book "Tribal Development Administration." has based his study on this region and he has tried to examine the role of administration in tribal development programmes between the years 1980-81 to 1990-1991. The previous works did not make in-depth study of the situation of the education of the tribals in Darjeeling hills of Darjeeling District in West Bengal. Therefore I intend to study the level of educational development of tribal community inhabiting in the areas of Darjeeling hills of Darjeeling district with special emphasis on the evaluations of the post-matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Tribes.

3. Review of research and development in the subject:

The book 'Tribal Situation in India' by [12] is an edited volume which consists of the proceeding of a seminar held at the Indian Institute of Advanced study, Shimla on July 6 to 19, 1969. The objectives of the seminar were information collection based on tribal problems from respective regions of India, suggestion regarding the problems and to provide guidelines for policymakers. Although the seminar was concerned with the tribal situation in all parts of India, particular attention was given to the North East Hill Area [NEHA]. Two major themes appear to have dominated the conference. One is the definition of 'tribe' in the Indian context, and the other is the definition and assessment of the concept of 'integration'. Another important topic scrutinized by the seminar is that of socio-political movements among tribals. In the book 'The Tribes and Castes of Bengal', [9] draws up an ethnographic description of the various castes and tribes found among the seventy millions of people inhabiting the territory of undivided Bengal or Eastern India. After six years of intensive study and survey conducted, this book was

first published in 1891 and still remains important and significantly valid for Bihar, Orissa, Bangladesh, West Bengal and Assam. The book 'The Scheduled Tribes' edited by K.S. Singh [11] presents the readers with a brief but descriptive anthropological profile of the tribals of India. This book is based on the contributions made by a number of scholars. [5] book 'A Concise History of Darjeeling District since 1835 with a complete itinerary of tours in Sikkim and the district.' has not only provided with a detailed history of Darjeeling but also describes the various hill people and gives an account of trips out of Darjeeling. Replete with information of the kind it was most useful for the travelers to Darjeeling and vicinity. [7] In his book 'Tribal Development Administration' kept his focus on the district of Darjeeling in West Bengal where he attempted to look empirically the role of administration in tribal development programmes, projects and schemes. But his work did not focus on the three hill subdivision of Darjeeling District.

4. Objective of the study:

This research paper seeks to study:

1. The level of educational development among scheduled tribe in the study area.
2. The problems faced by the scheduled tribes students of the region.
3. To what extent the post matric scholarship schemes given to the scheduled tribal students have been successful in bringing educational development in the research area.

5. Research Methodology:

The research design in the study will be descriptive as well as exploratory in nature.

5.1 Study Area: The chosen study area for the study is the Darjeeling Municipality of Darjeeling district in West Bengal. Darjeeling town is the headquarters of the District and is situated in the Lower Himalayas (27°3' N. and 88° 16' E.) at a distance of 369.5 miles by road from Calcutta.

5.2 Data collection: Data for the proposed study are collected from both primary as well secondary sources. For empirical work and collection of primary data, survey method was carried out in study area. The primary data was collected by interview method from the sampled beneficiaries (Scheduled Tribe students) of the academic year 2017-18 in the proposed research area. The requisite secondary data about the scheme was collected from

the office of Backward Classes Welfare Department of Darjeeling. The other secondary sources include Gazetteers and Census Reports and published books, journals and periodicals and research articles having a direct bearing on the area of research. Besides discussions were also done with the concerned government officers to inquire about their views/opinion regarding the implementation of the scheme at field.

5.3 Sampling Design: A sample of 150 students was selected comprising 120 students of General Higher Education from 3 colleges of Darjeeling Municipality namely, Darjeeling Government College, Southfield College and St. Joseph's College and 30 students of plus 2 levels from eight of the Government aided Higher Secondary Schools of Darjeeling of the academic session 2017-18. The chosen eight Government aided Higher Secondary Schools of Darjeeling are (i) St. Roberts High School (ii) Turnbull High School (iii) Nepali Girls High School (iv) Municipal Boys High School (v) Municipal Girls High School (vi) Saradeshwari Girls High School (vii) St. Teresa Girls High School (viii) St. Micheal's High School. A sample of 150 beneficiary students was selected at random for the purpose of this study.

5.4 Reference Period: The requisite data was collected for the academic year 2016-17, and 2017-18. The primary data collected from the beneficiary students relates to the academic year 2017-18.

5.5 Field Work: The field survey was carried out during the months of May to November, 2018.

5.6 Limitations of the study: The major limitation of the study was the reluctance of the officials Backward Classes Welfare Department of Darjeeling to supply the required information was a major hindrance to the study.

6. Post- Matric Scholarships (PMS)

Out of many educational development schemes of Scheduled Tribes being promoted by the Central and State governments, Post- Matric Scholarships (PMS) scheme is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which stands as a monolith and so much so that, earlier this Ministry was more popularly known as Ministry of Scholarships as this is a old scheme and was initiated 6 decades before by the Central Government. The

scheme of Post Matric Scholarship was launched during the year 1944 by the Government of India. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India is the Nodal Agency for preparing the guidelines, release of funds by Government of India, monitoring the progress of implementation etc. for the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme at the centre. The scheme was administered by the Central Government directly till 1958-59 and was entrusted to the State Governments/ Union Territories Administrations in 1959-60 due to the increasing number of applications for scholarships. In West Bengal, Backward Classes Welfare Department is the nodal agency to execute the scheme.

This government scheme has the objective of providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matriculation or postsecondary levels to enable them to complete their education. This scheme is for all Scheduled Tribe students whose parent's annual income is Rs. 2.00 lakh or less, w.e.f. 1.7.2010 and the scholarships are awarded through the Government of the State/Union Territory where he/she is domiciled.

The main features of this scheme are to cater different categories of students different rates of scholarships depending on the course. There is reader's allowance for visually handicapped students and escort and transport allowance for physically handicapped students. The scholarship given to the tribal students covers the whole duration of the course and is paid on an annual basis and is subject to the satisfactory performance of the student and good conduct

The State Government and Union Territory administration implements this scheme and they receives funding assistance at ratio of 75:25 between Centre and States for all states; except for north eastern states, special category areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir where the funding ratio is 90:10. Financial assistance given under the scheme was not to be utilized for any other purpose.

In the Tenth Five Year Plan the two smaller schemes of Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit were merged with the Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) scheme. According to Annual Reports of 2017-18 of Ministry of Tribal Affairs ,an amount of Rs.935.53 crore was spent till 31st December 2017 against the Budget allocation of Rs.1347.07 crore during 2017-18. State-wise coverage of beneficiaries and central assistance released during the years 2015-16 to 2017-18 (till 31.12.2017). [1]

6.1. Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme in West Bengal:

In West Bengal, Backward Classes Welfare Department is the nodal agency. The State Government releases the funds to the Backward Classes Welfare Department. The Backward Classes Welfare Department allocates the funds to District Welfare Officer of the State. The State Government follows the rates fixed by the Government of India. However, in cases of Post-Matric Scholarship for hostellers in Group III and IV are less (Rs. 570/- and Rs. 380/- per month respectively) than the rates fixed by the State Government, the State Government pays at higher rates fixed by the State Government (Rs. 750/- per month) and the additional burden is borne by the State Government. The scholarship is given for study of various recognized post secondary courses pursued in recognized educational institutions. Since the maintenance allowance for different courses vary widely, the same have been grouped into 4 categories and shown below as I, II, III, and IV. The amount of scholarship admissible for each group has also been indicated in the **Table-1**. Tuition fees and compulsory non-refundable fees are also paid as per approved rate of the Government institution.

Table1 : Post Matric Scholarship to SC/ ST

Group	Course of Study	Rate of maintenance allowance (Rs. per month)	
		Hostellers	Day Scholars
I	Medical / Engineering / B. Sc (Agri) / C.P.L / M.Phil / P.hd / L.L.M etc.	1200	550
II	B. Pharm. / B. Nursing / L.L.B / Hotel Management / Post Graduate Courses etc.	820	530
III	General courses up to graduate level	750	300
IV	Classes XI and XII in 10+2 system / Intermediate courses / ITI / Polytechnic	750	230

Source: Backward Classes Welfare Department, West Bengal.

The application forms for the Post Matric Scholarship are invited through online mode. The applicant has to apply for the scholarship through online mode and upload all the relevant documents required such as photocopy of aadhar card, bank pass book, income certificate and caste certificate. Selection of students for the scholarship will be based on their financial condition and performance in

previous academic examinations. The entire amount of the scholarship is released in one installment mainly between November and March. [14]

6.2 Implementation of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme in Darjeeling District:

To ensure overall development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes residing in the three hill sub-divisions of Darjeeling, the office of the District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, Darjeeling and the Additional District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, Kalimpong was transferred to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, Darjeeling on June 2001.

The West Bengal State Government releases the funds to the Backward Classes Welfare Department. The Backward Classes Welfare Department allocates the funds to Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) for overall development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes residing in the three hill sub-divisions of Darjeeling. The Secretary of the Finance Department of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) releases the funds to the office of the District Welfare Officer, Backward Classes Welfare, Darjeeling. The applicant applies for the scholarship through online mode and the scholarship is credited directly into the bank accounts of the students.

7. Empirical Findings of the study

The field survey work was carried out during the months of May to November, 2018. The 150 Scheduled Tribe beneficiary respondents were interviewed with the help of both close ended and open ended questionnaire. The results drawn from the data collected are presented in this section. The requisite secondary data was collected for the academic year 2016-17 and 2017-18 from the office of Backward Classes Welfare Department, Darjeeling. The year 2017-18 was fixed as the base year of the evaluation study of the scheme Post Matric Scholarship scheme to the students belonging to Scheduled Tribe category. According to the official reports provided by the office of Backward Classes Welfare Department, Darjeeling revealed that during the academic session of 2017-18 Rs. 1, 66, 76,600/- was received out of which the total expenditure incurred was Rs. 59,14,000/- benefiting 2494 number of scheduled tribes beneficiaries. The fund was released from the finance department of Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA), Darjeeling in three instalments.

The information collected from the field survey revealed that out of 150 sample beneficiaries, 24 (16%) belonged to Sherpa, 24 (16%) belonged to Tamang, 25 (16.7%) belonged to Subba (Limbu), 23 (15.3%) belonged to Bhutia, 17 (11.3%) belonged to Dukpa, 13 (8.7%) belonged to Yolmo and 24 (16%) belonged to Lepcha. It was found that there were 119 fathers and 31 mothers as the head of families of the 150 sampled beneficiary students. The age of majority of the fathers 65 i.e. (43.3%) out of 119 as head of the families of the sampled beneficiary students was between 41 to 50 years. The age of majority of mothers i.e. 17 (11.3%) mothers out of 31 as head of families was also between 41 to 50 years.

As far as the educational level attained by the heads (Father and Mother) of the families of the 150 sample beneficiary students is concerned, that out of 119 fathers, 30(20%) were illiterate, around 14(9.3%) have had only education up to primary level, around 19(12.7%) have had education up to middle level, 38(25.3%) have been enabled to complete Matric level Education and 8(5.3%) had education up to X+II. Only 5(3.3%) were graduates, 3(2%) were post graduates and 2(1.3%) were professional. Out of the 31 mothers, 15(10%) were illiterate, 4(2.7%) had primary level education, 9(6%) had education up to middle level and 3(2%) were matriculate. It is inferred that majority of father (30) and mother (10) were illiterate.

The occupation of 36 (24%) father was agriculture, 32(21.3%) fathers were earning their livelihood from labour work (agriculture and casual labour), 14 (9.3%) were engaged in services like teaching, clerical services and as security or forest guards. 11(7.3%) were working as rural artisans like local carpentry etc. and 21 (14%) were engaged in other occupations like driving and local business and some were shopkeepers. While 5 (3.3%) were retired army personnel. As far as the occupation of 31 mothers as head of the family; 8(5.3%) was engaged in agriculture; 18 (12%) were found in agriculture and casual labour; while 5 (3.3%) were unemployed. The majority of father 68(45.3%) and mother 26 (17.3%) were engaged in agriculture and labour work (agriculture and casual labour)

The field survey data revealed that out of 150 parents/ guardians of sampled beneficiaries, 21 (14%) had annual income below Rs. 20,000, 53(35.3%) of parents/ guardians were earning annual income between Rs. 20,001 to 40,000, 30(20%) were earning between Rs. 40,001 to 80,000, 22(14.7%) were earning between Rs. 80,001 to 1,000,00 . 13(8.7%) of the parents/guardians had annual income between Rs. 1,000,01 to 1,40,000 , and remaining 8(5.3%) and 3(2%) of the parents

were earning between Rs. 1,40,001 to 1,80,000 and Rs. 1,80,001 to 2,000,00 respectively. Majority of the parents 126(84%) were earning less than Rs. 1,000,00 P.A.

It was found that that out of the total 150 sample beneficiary students there were 70(46.7%) male beneficiaries and 80(53.3%) female beneficiaries. The data revealed the family size of the 150 sample beneficiary students where, 6(4%) families were having 3 members, 82(54.7%) having 4 to 5 members, 37 (24.7%) having 6 to 7 members and 25(16.7%) having more than 7 members in the family. The total family members of 150 sample beneficiary students were 664. Out of the 664 total family members, 374(56.3%) were male and 290(43.7%) were female. The field survey showed that out of 150 families the majority of 82(54.7%) families were having 4 to 5 members.

The sample of 150 students comprised of 120 students of General Higher Education from 3 colleges of Darjeeling Municipality namely, Darjeeling Government College, Southfield College and St. Joseph's College and 30 students of plus 2 levels from eight of the Government aided Higher Secondary Schools of Darjeeling of the academic session 2011-12. The data revealed that 30(20%) of the students were in Higher Secondary, 110 (73.3%) of the beneficiary students were of Under Graduation degree and 10 (6.7%) of the students were of Post Graduation degree of various type of courses i.e. Arts, Commerce and Science. Out of the 150 sampled beneficiary students, 142(94.7%) sampled beneficiary students were days scholars and 8(5.3%) of the sampled beneficiary students were staying in hostels. It was observed that majority of the students were day scholars. The annual income of parents / guardians of all the 150 beneficiary students were within the criteria of the income ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum.

The analyses of the data collected from the field showed that out of the total 150 sampled beneficiary students, 145 (96.7%) reported as aware of the scheme, whereas, 5(3.3%) reported as not aware of the scheme. Out of 30 students of Higher Secondary 28(18.7%) are aware, while only 2 (1.3%) were not aware of the Post Matric Scholarship scheme. Out of 110 sampled beneficiary students who were undergoing graduation, 107 (71.3%) were aware of the Post Matric Scholarship scheme and only 3(2%) were not aware of the scheme. Whereas all the 10 (6.7%) sampled beneficiary students who were undergoing post graduation seemed to be aware of the Post Matric Scholarship scheme. It was observed that the maximum numbers of sampled beneficiaries were found aware of the Post Matric Scholarship

scheme, except a limited number of beneficiary students were found not aware of the scheme.

Among 150 sampled beneficiary students, 4(2.7%) had received the scholarship during the month of July, 2011 to September 2011, 44(29.3%) of the sampled beneficiaries had received during the month of October, 2011 to December, 2011, 31(20.7%) had received during the month of January, 12 to March, 12 and 31(20.7%) had received during the month of April, 12 to June, 12. While 40 (26.7%) of the sampled beneficiary students had received the benefit of scholarship July, 12 till November, 12 [The field survey work was carried out during the months of May to November, 2012]. It can be concluded that the scholarship which should be given on regular monthly basis to the needy students was not given as per the norm fixed by government.

As far as the opinion of 150 sampled beneficiary students is concerned about adequacy of benefit under the scheme the field survey data revealed that 98(65.3%) of the students felt that the benefit provided under the scheme was adequate and 52(34.7%) opined that the benefit was in-adequate. It was also observed that out of the 150 sampled beneficiary students, 102(68%) were of the opinion that the income ceiling up to Rs.2.00 lakh was justified whereas 48(32%) opined that income ceiling up to Rs. 2.00 lakh was not justified. 48(32%) of the sampled students were of the opinion that income ceiling should be increased. to Rs.2.50 lakh P.A. Some even wanted it to be increased to Rs.3.00 lakh P.A. instead of Rs.2.00 lakh per annum.

The study revealed that out of the 11 heads of the educational institutions, 8(72.7%) heads of educational institutions felt that amount received under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme was adequate to meet their expenses. Whereas 3(27.3%) heads of educational institutions stated that the amount provided under the scheme was inadequate. It was also observed that out of the total 11 Heads of the educational institutions, 8(72.7%) opined that the criteria of income ceiling of the parents/ guardians of Rs. 2.00 lakh P.A. is justified whereas 3(27.3%) opined that the said criteria of income ceiling was not justified. Further the 3(27.3%) head of the educational institution suggested to raise the income ceiling P.A. of the parents / guardians of the students. They opined that the income ceiling must be fixed keeping in view the rising prices of all the items including the basic needs of livelihood.

Overwhelming majority of 148 (98.7%) student beneficiaries out of selected 150 beneficiaries felt that the post matric scholarship scheme was useful and that their education could not be completed without the aid of the scholarship. It indicated that

they were mostly dependent on the financial support for continuation of higher studies. It was significant that many scheduled tribe students could not under go higher studies due to financial problems of their families.

The field survey [ie. After interviewing both the 150 sampled beneficiaries and the heads of educational institution] revealed that all the educational institutions made publicity about the post matric scholarship scheme through displaying its detail on notice board, by publishing in the prospectus of the concerned educational institutions or announcing in the assembly meeting convened by the educational institutions, etc.

Among 150 beneficiary students, 52(34.7%) of the beneficiary students were satisfied about the rate fixed by the government. While 98(65.3%) of the beneficiary students were not satisfied about the rate fixed by the Government. They further expressed that the prices of all the items along with the basic needs have increased, so the rates should also be increased keeping in view the increasing trend of prices of consumer items. Whereas out of 11 selected educational institutions the heads of 8 (72.7%) educational institutions were of the opinion that that the rates of scholarship fixed by the government were adequate and remaining 3(27.3%) opined that the rates of scholarships were inadequate so it should be increased.

From the analysis of the data collected from the field survey I observed that due to insufficient funds many Scheduled Tribe students are not getting Post Matric Scholarship. Moreover the state government is not releasing adequate funds of the scheme in time and this is resulting delay in payments. Moreover the students are also not aware of the Post Matric Scheme in detail. The students have also expressed their reservation against the clapping of the tuition fees by the State governments and want the full fees payment by the government. It is also observed from the field survey that the post matric scholarship scheme is also beneficial to the poor scheduled tribe beneficiary students. The student beneficiaries felt that the post matric scholarship scheme was useful and that their education could not be completed without the aid of the scholarship. It indicated that they were mostly dependent on the financial support for continuation of higher studies. It was significant that many scheduled tribe students could not under go higher studies due to financial problems of their families. In view of the rapid escalation of prices in the recent years, the amount provided in the scholarship seems to be inadequate both by the awardees, their parents and as well as by the heads of the educational institutions of the study area who were interviewed during the course of this study.

Therefore the amount provided in the scholarship need to be revised. It was also noticed from the field survey that there was absence of proper arrangements for supervision of the scheme. So effort should be made for the improvement in the administrative arrangement for the timely supervision for the better performance of the scheme.

8. Conclusion:

The field survey revealed that guidelines of the scheme were not being followed properly. The study also indicated that many poor tribal students could not under go higher studies due to financial problems. Therefore Post matric scheme is very beneficial to the poor students for continuation of studies

On the basis of various findings and observations the following recommendations have been made in the effective implementation of the scheme.

- a. Wide and effective publicity must be done before the beginning of the academic session about the scheme.
- b. Income ceiling of parents / guardians of the potential students should be increase from Rs.2.00 lakh P.A. to Rs. 3.50 P.A.
- c. The District Welfare Officers should ensure that the benefit of the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme should be provided during the academic session. Also there is a need to revise the amount of scholarship on the basis of the type on the basis of the type of courses taken up by the beneficiary students and the location of the institution [i.e. rural or town or city]
- d. There is a need for more transparency in the disbursement of funds of the post matric scheme through on-line release and web based management.
- e. One of the biggest complaints received from the Scheduled Tribe students in the field was that, they are not getting timely payment of their scholarship amount. So, efforts should be made for timely delivery of the Post Matric scholarship scheme amount to the eligible students through bank/ post office.

- f. The delayed release from Centre results in the late release of Post Matric Scheme funds from State to District head quarters and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries students. The procedural delays at all the levels should be minimised. So, efforts should be made for quick transfer of funds from Centre to States and States to District Head Quarters and Scheduled Tribe beneficiary students.

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