

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

In order to provide a good scope for the upliftment of the people of the Backward Classes Communities which are notified by the Government, the Department of Social Welfare is implementing various important Schemes under which certain kinds of benefits are distributed to them, covering beneficiaries who include School / College students as well as Senior Citizens, Poor Artisans, and selected individuals / persons, who are self employed i.e. washermen / barbers.

Besides, persons belonging to Backward Classes who are recognized as meritorious for having rendered commendable services in the field of Communal Harmony are also honored once in a year under a Scheme specially evolved for this purpose. There are as many as 8 Schemes in total, being implemented by the Department which enables the people of Backward Classes communities to stand benefited, in accordance with the eligibility norms prescribed for them.

The following are the details showing the name of the Scheme implemented, nature of the benefits extended to the eligible person belonging to a Backward Classes Community etc.,

1. Hostels for students (boys and girls) of backward classes

As a way of promoting the welfare of the Backward classes population of this U.T., the Social welfare Department launched a scheme for running Hostels at various locations of this U.T. which aims to benefit the students studying in Govt. schools / Technical Institutions who belong to any of the Backward class community. 3 hostels are functioning exclusively for boys and 3 hostels are functioning exclusively for girls.

Students hailing from a financially poor family background who are unable to overcome certain difficulties, especially those which are related to meeting out the cost of their own self-maintenance, cost involved in the travel from their home to the School/Institution where they study, their other daily living needs, etc., As this would certainly discourage such students from pursuing their education, a Scheme was evolved by the Department to start and run Hostels at various locations of the U.T. for the admission of such students alone.

Benefits available:-

- free boarding and lodging facilities to all inmates.
- free supply of school uniform dresses to all inmates.
- Recreation facilities such as training in sports, dance etc.,

- Stitching charges paid to students studying up to VII standard @ Rs. 150/-, for students studying from VII to X standard @ Rs. 200/- and for students studying from XI to XII standard @ Rs.250/- per annum.

Eligibility for Admission:

- Students studying in IV standard and above or in equivalent classes in recognized schools or in colleges and who are natives of Puducherry or resident in the U. T. of Puducherry for not less than five years are eligible for admission.
- Annual Income of the parents should be below Rs.24,000/- must produce Income Certificate, Community certificate and Study Certificate.
- 80 % of students are admitted from children of B.C. communities and 20 % from children of SC communities.

The details showing the strength of the inmates in each hostel relating to the years from 2009-10 to 2011-12 are as shown in the following tables:

Table - 4 (Hostels for Boys)

Sl. No.	Name of the Region	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	PUDUCHERRY(GOVERNMENT BACKWARD CLASSES BOYS HOSTEL, BAHOUR)	32	32	36
2	KARAIKAL (GOVERNMENT BACKWARD CLASSES BOYS HOSTEL,KARAIKAL)	32	33	37
3	YANAM (GOVERNMENT BACKWARD CLASSES BOYS HOSTEL, YANAM)	35	54	98

Table - 5 (Hostels for Girls)

Sl. No	Name of the Region	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	PUDUCHERRY (GOVERNMENT BACKWARD CLASSES GIRLS HOSTEL, KAMARAJ NAGAR)	32	27	29
2	PUDUCHERRY(GOVERNMENT BACKWARD CLASSES GIRLS HOSTEL, KIRUMAMBAKKAM)	24	18	12
3	KARAIKAL (GOVERNMENT BACKWARD CLASSES GIRLS HOSTEL,KARAIKAL)	26	33	33

2. Makkal Thalaivar Thiagi V. Subbiah Prizes to the meritorious Students of backward classes in the school final examination:-

(a) Purpose of the Scheme:-

This scheme is implemented since the year **1998-99**. To encourage and honour the Students of the backward classes who secure first and second ranks in the School Final Examinations.

(b) Eligibility:-

Should have studied either in a Government or a Private School / Institution and should have secured 1st or 2nd rank in the School final Examinations (i.e., S.S.L.C. / Matriculation / + 2 levels).

(c) Benefits available:- Cash prize of Rs.5000/- and Rs.3000/- for students secured first and second rank respectively along with a citation.

3. Free Distribution of Press box to the poor Washerman.

(a) Purpose of the Scheme:-

This scheme was started in the year **2000**, for the purpose of eliminating the poverty of the poor OBCs who are self-occupied / self employed by running Ironing shops and for enhancing their professional income.

(b) Eligibility:-

The beneficiary should be above 21 years of age. Annual income of the beneficiary should not exceed Rs.24,000/-

(c) Benefits available:-

Press boxes are distributed to the eligible persons at free of cost.

4. Free Distribution of Barber Chairs and Kits to the poor people.

(a) Purpose of the Scheme:-

This scheme is implemented since the year **2000**, for the purpose of eliminating the poverty of the poor, who are self-occupied / self employed by running barber shops and for enhancing their professional income.

(b) Eligibility:-

The beneficiary should be above 21 years of age. Annual income of the beneficiary should not exceed Rs.24,000/-

(c) Benefits available:-

Barber Chairs and Kits are distributed to the eligible persons at free of cost.

5. Free Distribution of Nadaswarams and Thavil to the poor people.

(a) Purpose of the Scheme:-

This scheme is implemented since the year **2004**, for the purpose of eliminating the poverty of the poor, who are playing Nadaswaram and Thavil and for enhancing their professional income.

(b) Eligibility:-

The beneficiary should be above 21 years of age. Annual income of the beneficiary should not exceed Rs.24,000/-

(c) Benefits available:-

Nadaswarams and Thavils are distributed to the eligible artisans at free of cost.

6. Free distribution of Bi-cycles and Rain coats to the students:-

(a) Purpose of the Scheme:-

This scheme is implemented since the year **2004** for the purpose of the students who hail from families of poor financial background come across many difficulties due to the long distance they have to travel for reaching their Schools from their homes, especially during rainy seasons. In order to help them over come such difficulties and also for enabling them to reach their schools in time without much strains, this scheme had been started.

(b) Eligibility:-

Students studying in IX Standard in Government / Government aided schools.

(c) Benefits available:-

Free Bi-cycles and Rain coats

7. Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar Award for Communal Harmony:-

(a) Purpose of the Scheme:-

This scheme was started in the year **2005**, for encouraging those who wish to contribute and serve for the cause of Communal Harmony and peace.

(b) Eligibility:-

The selection of deserving persons for the grant of this award is made according to the decisions of a special Committee constituted for this purpose.

(c) Benefits:-

Every selected individual is honoured through a presentation of an award called “Thavathiru Kundrakudi Adigalar Award for Communal Harmony” along with a cash payment of Rs.10,000/- and a citation, during a Government function held for this purpose.

8. Free distribution of Blankets and Chappals to Senior Citizens:-

(a) Purpose of the scheme:-

This scheme was started in the year **2000** to enable the poor senior citizens to receive blankets and chappals, once in a year, at free of cost.

(b) Eligibility:-

Senior Citizens above 60 years, recipient of Old Age Pension.

(c) Benefits:-

One blanket and one pair chappals at free of cost.

9. Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the OBC Students:-

(a) Purpose of the scheme:-

This scheme is implemented since the year **2005**. Apart from the Schemes mentioned above, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi, is implementing a scheme for the grant of Post-Matric Scholarship to the OBC students in order to provide better opportunities to them as well as for promoting the scope for the educational development of OBC students at Post-Matric stage.

This scheme is being implemented in the Department of Social Welfare since the year 2005-06. The details showing the rates of the Scholarship for the Day scholars and the Hostellers are as follows:-

Table - 6 – Rates of the Scholarship

Year of Study	Day Scholars	Hostellers
First year of Post-Matric	Rs.160/-	Rs.260/-
Second Year of Post- Matric	Rs.160/-	Rs.260/-

(b) Eligibility:-

- Students belonging to OBC as notified by the Government of Puducherry and who have passed the Matriculation /SSLC.
- The annual income of the parents should not be more than Rs.1,00,000/-
- The students applying for scholarship should have secured atleast 60% of marks.