

Before the Honourable Union Minister for Minority Affairs,

The Kerala State Commission for Minorities have received petitions from minority students studying B.Tech courses in various institutions in the State, complaining that they have denied Merit-cum-Means Scholarships due to non verification and onward submission of online applications to Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India by the concerned authorities in the State, within the stipulated timeframe. The Commission have made enquiry in the matter and collected details from the Institutions and Directorate of Technical Education – the nodal agency for MCM Scholarships in the State. The gist of the case is given below.

The last date for sending online ‘fresh’ applications for Merit-cum-Means scholarship 2014-15, to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt of India was initially fixed as 5.11.2014. In the State of Kerala, as on 24.10.2014 there were 23,724 applications in the inbox of Directorate of Technical Education - the nodal agency for verification of MCM Scholarship applications in the State - for verification and on ward transmission to Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India. As the State authorities experienced certain difficulties like frequent log out of the system, interrupted availability of site, time consuming verification of details in the hardcopy etc, the Union Ministry was requested to extend the last date of forwarding online applications up to 28.11.2014. The Ministry had kindly extended the date of scrutiny of online applications of MCM Scholarship(fresh) 2014-15 up to 10.11.2014. But the Ministry had abruptly withdrawn the site on 9.11.2014 at 12 pm. The State of Kerala informed the Union Ministry about non verification of 2000 more online application pending in the inbox of Directorate of Technical Education and requested the Ministry to extend the last date of scrutiny of applications by atleast one day.

Similarly consequent on the sudden decision of Union Ministry to prepone the last date of submission of online application for scholarship renewal from 15.12.2014 to 15.11.2014, about 2500 students could not renew their application. One of the major reason for non submission of online application before 15.11.2014 was the delay in publication of results by the Universities concerned.

Also, about 1,500 students could not renew their scholarship as the system displayed a message that “course duration is over and not eligible for further

Scholarship". This was due to wrong reporting of course year while filling application by students. About 500 students, whose scholarships were disbursed very late during last financial year were also unable to renew their application during the previous year. In this context, it may be noted that the overall financial commitments in this regard would be around Rs. 2,16,20,000/-. If these students are not given opportunity to furnish fresh/renewal applications they will loss their scholarship during the entire period of their course of study.

In the circumstances, it is requested to kindly intervene in the matter and arrange to open the MoMA scholarship website for two or three more days so as to facilitate the State authorities to complete the verification and onward submission of the pending applications to the Ministry of Minority Affairs. It is once again requested to do the needful to ensure that anyone of the eligible candidates are denied the scholarships as no fault of them.

With wishes,

Adv. M. Veerankutty
Chairman