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CM bails out state student in China

Sanjeev Shivadekar | TNN

Mumbai: Chief minister Ashok Chavan has come to the help of a Maharashtra student, studying medicine in China with a government scholarship, after his government's **failure to pay his fees threatened to terminate his studies**. Sumedh Bele was on the verge of packing up his bags and returning here when Chavan got working.

The social justice department approved Bele's scholarship for medical studies in China in 2003-'04 under the scheme. But Nanjin University recently gave a notice to Bele, threatening to debar him from this year's examination as his 2007-'08 fees had not been paid by the Maharashtra government. A scared Bele called up the social justice department here but they yielded no result.

A frustrated Bele finally sent an e-mail to the chief minister, complaining about the red tape and the failure of the social justice department to pay his fees (US \$ 3,650).

The chief minister's public relations office immediately took the print-out of the mail and brought it to Chavan's notice. An extremely irritated chief minister then directed the department to resolve the issue. "Chavan issued a note, saying no student should suffer because of the state government. If there were any other outstanding fees, they too should be released immediately, he ordered," a senior official from the CM's office said.

The state government offers the Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Scholarship to 100 students belonging to Scheduled Castes to undertake studies in renowned educational institutions in India and abroad.

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