## **University Of Mumbai**

Press Note Date-1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

## Two New Hostel for SC students

Mumbai-The University of Mumbai received a grant of Rs 3.72 cr from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment towards construction of separate hostels for boys and girls belonging to Scheduled Caste at the Kalina campus. While the total cost of both the projects is approximately Rs 14 cr, the first installment was released due to the efforts of vice-chancellor Dr Rajan Welukar. Due to the increase in the number of SC students from different parts of Maharashtra coming to Mumbai for further studies, the need for dedicated hostels for these students was felt. Dr Welukar mooted the idea of the hostels and accordingly the university wrote to the central government seeking funds under the Babu Jagjivanram Student Hostel scheme in 2012. The estimated cost of both the hostels was then sent following which the first installment of Rs 1.92 cr and 1.80 cr was released by the department.

The two hostels will consist of a ground plus four structures will accommodate 96 girls and 100 boys in the respective hostels. The university has already identified the land for the same and work on it will begin soon.

In all 5646 students from the Scheduled caste in university department and 39272 students from other affiliated colleges, university taking the total number of students from all reserved classes to 44,918.

In a bid to encourage higher and technical education as well as curb dropout rate among these classes the social welfare department has come out with this scheme. As many students from these classes are unable to afford the high rents in Mumbai, the two hostels with an overall capacity of 196 students will be built under this scheme by the University of Mumbai.

Leeladhar Bansod, Deputy Registrar (PR)