GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3061
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2023

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCs

3061. MS. S. JOTHIMANI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in budgetary allocation and the number of fellowships awarded under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste (SC) students scheme and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the beneficiaries of the scheme since 2014, State-wise including in Tamil Nadu, district-wise;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the number of beneficiaries of the scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is proposing to increase the budgetary allocation for the scheme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons there for?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI A. NARAYANASWAMY)

(a): National Fellowship scheme for schedule caste students being implemented by the DoSJE is demand-driven scheme and the funds are released as per demands and there has been no shortage of funds, as may be seen from table below :

Budget Estimate and Expenditure & Beneficiaries under National Fellowship for SC Students of last three years

Year	Budget Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Fund Released by Ministry (Rs. in crore)	Number of Fellowships awarded
2020-21	300.00	118.99	4841(merged cycle)
2021-22	300.00	122.39	1932(merged cycle)
2022-23	173.00	114.25	1872 (merged cycle)

So far as number of beneficiaries is concerned, it is informed that Under NFSC scheme, 2000 new fellowships per year are given to such Scheduled Caste students who undertake advanced studies and research leading to M.Phil/Ph.D Degrees. Further, if, in an academic year, the allocated slots remain substantially unfilled (25% or more), the slots of the next academic year are reviewed. After, reviewing, the backlog slots are filled , if required. During the Financial Year 2020-21, 4841 seats including backlog slots were filled up.

(b) & (c):   This is a Central Sector scheme directly implemented by the Ministry without involvement of the State Governments. Presently, the selection of students is done on the basis of merit determined by the National Eligibility Test (NET) examination of the University Grant Commission (UGC) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR) held by National Testing Agency (NTA). The details of the number of beneficiaries of the scheme since 2014 state-wise , including State of Tamil Nadu is given in Annexure I (district wise data not maintained). It is informed that data indicator keeps oscillating year by year i.e. may increase or may not in the subsequent years because of the fact that the candidates who have been awarded with National fellowship have validity of this award for 3 years from the date of issue of award of fellowship. In this period of 3 years, the candidates may or may not avail the fellowship due to various reasons e.g. better placement etc. and thereby, leave the course in between.

(d):   Provisions of the scheme were reviewed by the Expenditure Finance Committee and approved by the cabinet in 2021-22 and to be continued for the next 5 years with the total outlay of Rs. 882 Cr under the scheme and there is no shortage of funds under the scheme.

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Annexure referred in reply to part (b) and (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3061 for answer on 08/08/2023 regarding National Fellowship for SC students.

YEAR	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
STATE	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	65	55	92	78	61	34	22	9	1
ANDHRA PRADESH	197	228	584	551	528	429	330	244	136
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	82	100	0	91	81	36	18	10	6
ASSAM	68	63	0	103	101	84	62	65	67
BIHAR	333	387	276	379	342	189	102	83	90
CHANDIGARH	6	5	7	5	4	4	3	3	5
CHHATTISGARH	56	62	81	82	81	36	31	33	40
DELHI	48	57	123	113	102	75	77	131	173
GOA	17	14	17	12	8	4	4	2	1
GUJARAT	79	98	178	170	159	116	82	83	70
HARYANA	108	131	223	228	213	147	111	160	212
HIMACHAL PRADESH	38	42	22	57	40	39	55	99	134
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	93	104	20	121	108	79	67	66	72
JHARKHAND	278	266	476	415	374	226	119	69	40
KARNATAKA	396	473	846	821	766	578	447	344	217
KERALA	99	119	296	200	207	160	118	97	110
LAKSHADWEEP	11	7	9	6	4	3	2	2	0
MADHYA PRADESH	126	137	451	218	215	149	91	91	85
MAHARASHTRA	165	198	359	344	330	250	199	184	136
MANIPUR	5	4	0	8	8	10	14	19	24
MEGHALAYA	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	2
MIZORAM	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
NAGALAND	34	44	0	55	53	38	21	5	1
ODISHA	92	103	291	149	158	113	104	104	106
PUDUCHERRY	12	11	18	19	17	9	3	2	4
PUNJAB	143	166	298	267	234	202	193	221	235
RAJASTHAN	215	350	475	497	471	325	224	165	179
SIKKIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
TAMIL NADU	298	357	744	713	604	463	332	236	132
TELANGANA	32	56	134	150	150	142	137	128	119
TRIPURA	2	2	0	6	6	5	4	6	7
UTTAR PRADESH	568	693	949	960	906	648	587	544	591
UTTARAKHAND	88	111	291	202	192	136	120	80	82
WEST BENGAL	111	195	149	303	298	260	302	429	534

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