

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:752

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR SC/ ST STUDENTS

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved a new central scheme called Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for providing fellowship to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe students to pursue higher education;
- (b) if so, the details and salient features thereof;
- (a) the total annual expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on the scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07;
- (b) the number of students to be awarded fellowship under the said scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07;
- (c) whether provisions under the said scheme are also applicable to the students of minority community in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the opportunities available to the students of minority community?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

- (a) Yes Sir. Two New Central Sector Schemes namely `Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship` (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste Students and `Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship` for Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies leading to M. Phil and Ph. D have been introduced during the current financial year 2005-06.
- (b) Any student belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category admitted to M. Phil / Ph. D degree in a University or academic institution will be eligible for the award of the Fellowship. The Fellowship is on the same scale as the University Grants Commission (UGC)`s Scheme of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF). The tenure of Fellowship will be for five years, two years for Junior Research Fellowship and three years as Senior Research Fellowship subject to satisfactory progress of Research work. The distribution of fellowships amongst different States/UTs would primarily be in the proportion of SCs/STs population in the respective States/UTs.
- (c) Actual expenditure will depend upon response of students towards the scheme.
- (d) A total of 2000 fellowships (1333 for SCs and 667 for STs) have been sanctioned but actual number of students who will get awards during Tenth Plan Period will depend upon the response of students to the scheme.
- (e) No Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.
- (g) There is no scholarship/fellowships scheme for students of minority community.