

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3551
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011
NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Entrance Test (NET)- qualified researchers to get higher fellowships;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any special scheme of National Fellowship for SC/ST students for pursuing their higher studies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of SC/ST students benefited from this scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) conducts a National Eligibility Test (NET) twice in a year for Lecturership eligibility and Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) to ensure minimum standards for entrants in teaching and research. The NET examination is conducted in 77 subjects at 66 centers spread across the country. The NET qualified candidates are eligible for JRF for a period of five year @ Rs.16,000/- per month for first two years and Rs. 18,000/- per month for rest three years, when they become eligible for Senior Research Fellowships (SRF).

(c) to (e) The UGC provides fellowships under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) scheme to 2000 Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates per year (1333 slots for S C and 667 slots for S T category candidates) enabling them to undertake advanced studies and research, leading to M.Phil/Ph.D Degrees i n Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences. 12,104 candidates have been awarded RGNF since its inceptions.