

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:311  
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012  
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME  
Lal Shri Pakauri

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

- (a) the salient features of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme;
- (b) the number of students benefited through this scheme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the funds released under this scheme and those actually utilised during the said period, State-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in answer to parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 311 for 03.09.2012 by Shri Pakuri Lal, M.P. regarding "Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship` Scheme

(a): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated "Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship" (RGNF) Scheme for the Scheduled Caste students. Under the Scheme fellowships are awarded to the SC students for pursuing research studies leading to M. Phil., Ph.D. and equivalent research degrees in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions. The salient features of the Scheme are as follows:-

- i) 2000 fresh fellowships are awarded every year with effect from 2010-11.
- ii) University Grants Commission (UGC) is the nodal agency for implementing the Scheme.
- iii) There is no income criteria for eligibility.
- iv) Fellowships are primarily distributed among different State Governments/UTs in the proportion of SC population in the respective States/UTs.
- v) There is no restriction as regards to the minimum marks in Post-Graduation exam. It would be sufficient for a SC candidate to have passed the Post Graduation Examination for being eligible for RGNF.
- vi) There is no requirement to clear National Eligibility Test (NET)/State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) examination for availing fellowship.

(b): State/Union Territory-wise number of SC students to whom fresh fellowships have been awarded under the Scheme during 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given in the Annexure.

(c): Funds under the Scheme are not released to State Govts but to the University Grants Commission (UGC). Details of funds released to UGC under the Scheme and utilized by it during the last three years are given below:-

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Amount released to UGC	Amount utilized by UGC
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1.	2009-10	105.00	62.65
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2.	2010-11	144.00	141.71
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3. 2011-12 103.69 59.37