

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:801
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
RGNF SCHEME .
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) Scheme;
- (b) the number of students benefited through the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the allocation of funds and its utilisation under the scheme for the above period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

- (a) The salient features of the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste(SC) students are as under:
- (i) 2000 fresh fellowships are awarded every year with effect from 2010-11.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) There is no requirement to clear National Eligibility Test/State Level Eligibility Test examination for availing fellowship.
 - (iv) There is no income criteria for eligibility.
 - (v) Fellowships are primarily distributed among different States/UTs in the proportion of SC population in the respective State/UT.
 - (vi) University Grants Commission (UGC) is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.
- (b) The number of students benefited through the Scheme is 2000 each year during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. Selection for the current year is yet to be done.
- (c) The details of the budget allotted and the grant released to the UGC by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment during the last three years is as under :

Financial year	Budget Estimate	Amount Released
(Rs. in crores)	(Rs. in crores)	

2010-11	160	144
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2011-12	125	103.68
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2012-13	125	0
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2013-14	100	0
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The allocation of funds is not done state wise. However, a statement giving details of the SC slots allocated to various States/UTs and actual utilization of slots during the last three years is annexed.