

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4512
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP RGNF FOR ST STUDENTS
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for Scheduled Tribes (STs) students;
- (b) if so, the salient features and funding pattern thereof;
- (c) the eligibility criteria for availing the fellowship along with the number of students benefited thereunder indicating the number of applications received and accepted/rejected during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UTwise;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of irregularities for grant of fellowship under the scheme; and
- (e) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during the said period along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SMT. RANEE NARAH)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The objective and salient feature of the Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribe students is to provide fellowship to Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D in all the Universities/Institutions recognized by the UGC. The scheme is implemented through University Grant Commission (UGC). The amount of Scholarship covers fellowships, contingency expenses, expenses for departmental assistance; escorts/ reader assistance for disabled candidates and HRA on UGC pattern and the average cost of fellowship is Rs. 2.16 lakh for Junior Research Fellow (JRF) and Rs. 2.40 lakh Senior Research Fellow (SRF). The total number of fresh fellowships to be awarded each year is fixed at 667.

(c): To be eligible for this fellowship, a Scheduled Tribe candidate should have passed Post Graduation examination and the requirement of 50% marks at post graduation level will not be insisted by UGC. The student should get admission and registration for regular full time M.Phil/Ph.D degree courses in University/Academic Institutions as per the prescribed norms and advertisement of UGC. If the number of the ST students exceeds the number of available awards UGC selects the candidates based on percentage of marks in the Post Graduate examination. As regards the number of applications received and accepted/rejected, this information is not maintained centrally. The number of students benefited under the scheme during the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise given at Annexure.

(d): No irregularities for grant of fellowship under the scheme have been reported from any Universities/ Institution recognized by the UGC.

(e): Does not arise.