

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3905

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

SCHOLARSHIPS TO DISABLED STUDENTS

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

- (a) the details of scholarship schemes run by the Government for the students with disabilities for pursuing higher/technical education and the criteria for grant of such scholarships;
- (b) whether the number of scholarships under the Trust Fund has been increased;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the number of students benefited by such scholarships, so far;
- (d) whether laptops have also been provided to such students in the recent past and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the funds likely to be incurred for disbursement of such scholarships in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI P. BALRAM NAIK)

(a): Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) provides for scholarship to students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M. Phil. and Ph.D. The scheme is implemented by University Grants Commissions (UGC) on the pattern of UGC fellowship scheme. Any student with disability who has been admitted to M.Phil./Ph.D. course in a University or academic institution is eligible for the award of Fellowship.

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is implementing two Schemes, namely, Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund) and Scholarship Scheme (National Fund), for award of scholarship to students with disabilities pursuing Higher and Technical education. Student with 40% or more disabilities having prescribed income ceiling under the scheme are eligible for the scholarship.

(b) & (c): The number of Scholarship under (Trust Fund) Scholarship Scheme has been increased from 1000 to 1500 per year from the year 2013-14. 3018 students have been benefited by Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund) from 2011-12 onward till date.

(d): An amount of Rs.63,90,016/- has been provided from the year 2011-12 onwards cost of assistive devices such as laptop, Braille Type writer and Mobile phone etc. to the differently abled students in the Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund).

(e): An approximate amount of Rs. 15 crore is likely to be incurred for disbursement of 1500 Scholarship (Trust Fund) during the academic year 2013-14.