

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1477
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
Maganti Shri Murali Mohan

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

- (a) whether the Government provides assistance to SCs and OBCs students under the Central Sector Scheme of 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' for pursuing higher studies viz. M. Phil & Ph. D courses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the funds released in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to extend such scholarships to the students pursuing Engineering, Medicines and Architecture courses; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) & (b) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Castes (RGNF-SCs) was launched during the financial year 2005-06. Any student belonging to SC category is eligible for the award of fellowship subject to provisions of the Scheme. The Scheme is implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and covers all Universities/Institution recognized by the UGC. The rates of fellowships for Junior Research Fellows (JRF) and Senior Research Fellows (SRF) are at par with the UGC fellowships. Presently the Scheme provides for maximum number of 2000 fresh fellowships (Junior research fellows) per year.

Details of funds released to UGC under RGNF-SCs Scheme during the last three years and the current year are as under :-

Selection/Financial Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
2011-12	103.69
2012-13	0.00
2013-14	24.50
2014-15 (upto 28.11.14)	98.00

UGC had unspent balances of the past years

National Fellowship Scheme for the students of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has been launched in the financial year 2014-15. The Scheme is implemented by the UGC and covers all Universities /Institution recognized by it. The rates of fellowships for JRF and SRF are at par with the fellowships. Presently the Scheme provides for maximum number of 300 fresh fellowships (JRF) per year. During 2014-15 Rs. 6.00 crore have been released to UGC under this scheme.

(c)& (d) In both the Schemes fellowships are given in the subjects of Science, Humanities, Social Science and Engineering & Technology. Presently there is no proposal to extend the fellowships to the students pursuing Medicines and Architecture courses.