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Title: Need to release fellowships to SC students of Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): I would like to bring to the attention of the House about the non-release of funds under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship to SC students of Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, Acharya Nagarjuna University is one of the largest Universities in India covering many colleges and is a major learning centre in Andhra Pradesh. It facilitates research activities in sciences, social sciences, engineering and technology, and humanities to students in M.Phil., and Ph.D.

Fellowships are given to students at the University under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme after they have been selected by the UGC. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment formulated and funded this Scheme, and the UGC implements the Scheme after the selection process. Sir, 17 University students belonging to SC were selected by the UGC to pursue research in various areas. The UGC is not sending the fellowship to students belonging to the periods 2008 to 2009 up to 2012-13, and also for the period 2009-10 to 2013-14, which is causing a lot of hardship and financial difficulty to the SC students. The UGC has not released pending grant to the tune of Rs. 1.14 crore for the period 2008 to 2009 up to 2013-14, for 17 students; and for the period 2009-10 to 2013-14, a grant of more than Rs. 1.0 crore has to be sanctioned by the UGC.

Sir, Acharya Nagarjuna University itself has paid the advance of fellowship in two installments from the General Fund Account to avoid inconvenience and financial difficulty to students. Many Universities in Andhra Pradesh have received pending fellowships, but not the students of Nagarjuna University.

In view of what has been stated above and keeping in view the fact that students are facing severe financial crisis and are on the verge of discontinuing their higher studies, I would request the UGC and the Government of India to immediately take steps to release the due amount immediately to the Dalit students of Nagarjuna University.