

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently started a scheme called the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs and STs and also to support scholars belonging to the disabled category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the criteria for selection of the beneficiaries under the Scheme; and
- (c) the salient features of RGNF Scheme including the number of fellowships along with the amount granted to each beneficiary, so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has initiated 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' (RGNF) Scheme for the Scheduled Caste (SC) students w.e.f. 2005-06. Under the Scheme fellowships are awarded to the SC students for pursuing research studies leading to M.Phil., Ph.D. and equivalent research degrees in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions. The salient features of the Scheme and criteria for selection of the beneficiaries are at Annexure-I.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' (RGNF) Scheme for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) students w.e.f. 2005-06. Under the Scheme fellowships are awarded to the ST students for pursuing research studies leading to M.Phil., Ph.D. and equivalent research degrees in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions. The salient features of the Scheme and criteria for selection of the beneficiaries are at Annexure-I.

A new Scheme of RGNF, for providing scholarship to students with disabilities to pursue M. Phil and Ph.d. Programmes has also been finalised recently. The salient features of the Scheme and criteria for selection of the beneficiaries are at Annexure-I. So far no funds under the Scheme, have been released.

Rates of fellowship payable to each beneficiary, under RGNF for SCs, STs and students with Disabilities, for Junior Research Fellowship and Senior Research Fellowship are at par with UGC Fellowships, which are placed at Annexure-II