

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:37

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016

Prime Minister Rural Development Fellowship Scheme

Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Singh Dr. Bhola

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the salient features of the Prime Minister Rural Development Fellowship Scheme (PMRDFS) along with the criteria/procedure adopted for selecting candidates under the scheme;
- (b) the details of candidates selected/benefited and financial funds disbursed under the scheme since its inception, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the kind of work and functions performed by the fellows along with the projects undertaken and achievements made there from, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to discontinue this scheme, if so, the reasons therefor, if not, the time by which the next batch of fellows under the scheme is likely to be selected?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 37 for answer on 25.02.2016.

(a): The salient features of PMRDF scheme are as below:

- i. Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship is a short term work opportunity for young professionals to serve and learn in backward/isolated areas of the country
- ii. During the two-year fellowship period, fellows remain at the disposal of States and serve the district administration in improving programme delivery and interface with the marginalized section of the population.
- iii. After two years of fellowship, a fellow is required to spend at least one year in public service as an employee of the State Rural Livelihoods Mission.
- iv. The scheme initially covered Integrated Action Plan districts of nine States. It has been expanded to seven States in the North East as well as Jammu & Kashmir. Currently it covers IAP and backward districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Telangana, Tripura and West Bengal.
- v. Fellows are paid stipend during their fellowship.

Fellows are recruited through an open competition conducted through Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The Ministry has so far selected two batches of PMRD Fellows. Batch wise eligibility criteria for a candidate for fellowship are:

Eligibility criteria for candidates for 1st Batch:

- i. Should be a citizen of India.
- ii. Age between 21-30 years at the time of application. For candidates belonging to SC/ST category, the maximum age limit will be 35 years.
- iii. At least a graduate in Law/Engineering/Medicine/Social Sciences/Business Administration, or a Post-Graduate in any subject.
- iv. Physical fitness, certified by Government Medical Hospital, for the arduous nature of the work
- v. Working knowledge of Hindi /local language and customs

vi. Work experience in related fields

vii. Excellence in art, culture, sports at High School/College level

Eligibility criteria for candidates for 2nd Batch:

i Should be a citizen of India.

ii Age between 22-27 years at the time of application. For candidates belonging to SC/ST category, the maximum age limit will be 32 years.

iii At least a graduate from a recognized University with a four-year degree course, including those like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Engineering, Law, Medicine etc., or a post-graduate from a recognized University (in case of a graduate holding degree of a course duration of less than four years). It is clarified that a one year post graduate course will also be considered valid for eligibility if it is regular, full time and if the degree/equivalent diploma is recognized by the AICTE/MCI/UGC.

iv At least 50% marks in the aggregate or equivalent grade at the graduate or Post-graduate level, whichever is qualifying.

v Physical fitness, certified by Government Medical Hospital, for the arduous nature of the work.

(b): The Ministry has selected 156 Fellows in the year 2012 and 160 Fellows in the year 2014. There are no disbursements under the scheme to the States.

(c): PMRD Fellowship is a short term work opportunity for university educated and academically bright young women and men to serve with the district administration in improving programme delivery and interface with the marginalized sections of the population. The scheme does not provide for specific allocations /sanction of projects.

(d): No Madam.