

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1739
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

1739. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated during the last three years to implement the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship;
- (b) the number and details of Scheduled Tribe candidates awarded the scholarship annually for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D and M.Phil plus Ph.D during the last three years, State-wise, particularly from Jharkhand and Gujarat;
- (c) the details of actual expenditure incurred under the scheme and the achievements of the scheme during that period; and
- (d) whether any measures have been taken by Government for effective implementation of the scheme and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a): During the year 2015-16, the two Central Sector scholarship schemes for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students viz., i) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students and ii) Top Class Education Scheme for ST students were merged into a single Central Sector Scheme called 'National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students'. The details of funds allocated under the merged scheme 'National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students', for both Fellowship and Scholarship components of the scheme, are as under:-
(Rs. In lakhs)

2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
BE	RE	BE	RE	BE	RE
5000.00	4881.00	5000.00	8000.00	100.00	100.00

BE: Budget Estimates, RE: Revised Estimates

(b): Under the scheme, the total number of fresh fellowships each year is 750. The selection of award of Fellowship is based on merit and there is no State/University-wise allocation/ ceiling on number of slots under the scheme.

(c) & (d): The details of fellowship amount released Scheduled Tribe candidates awarded the Fellowship under the "National Fellowship" component of the scheme 'National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students' during the last three years are as under: -

(Rs. in lakhs)

2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
Expenditure	Beneficiaries	Expenditure	Beneficiaries	Expenditure	Beneficiaries
3138.76	1408	7312.25	2197	7022.00	2078

Earlier, the Ministry was implementing the scheme National Fellowship (erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship) for ST students through University Grants Commission (UGC). However, it has been decided that the Ministry itself will implement the Scheme from the year 2017-18 onwards. For this purpose a dedicated portal has been designed in the Ministry for online applications so as to ensure that fellowship amount is released to students in time directly into their accounts by DBT mode.
