GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2877
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

TWO-YEAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2877. SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

a. whether it is a fact that the Ministry has launched a two year Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Certificate Programme in Public Policy and Management in collaboration with nine Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs);

b. if so, the details thereof;

c. the aim of the Ministry in launching this programme and how many fellowships will be awarded; and;

d. the post certification avenues available to the fellows and whether Government plans to induct them as professional interns/consultants within the State/district level organizational setup?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
(SHRI R. K. SINGH)

(a) and (b) Yes, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under its World Bank Loan assisted Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme has launched the phase-I of two year Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) Programme on 08.03.2020 with IIM Bangalore as the Academic partner. Currently, under Phase-I of the MGNF Programme, 69 Fellows are deployed in 69 Districts across six States namely Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Further, the National roll-out (Phase-II) of MGNF programme to cover all Districts (excluding the Districts already covered under Phase-I of MGNF) across the country has also been launched for which the advertisement was released on 13.02.2021. MSDE has onboarded 9 IIMs namely, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Lucknow, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Visakhapatnam, IIM-Udaipur, IIM Nagpur, IIM Ranchi and IIM-Jammu to act as the Academic Partners for Phase-II of MGNF programme.

The eligibility criteria prescribed for being a Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow are as under:

i. The candidate should possess a minimum qualification of a graduate degree from a recognized University;
ii. The candidate should be a citizen of India
iii. The candidate should be in the age group of 21-30 years.
iv. The candidate should possess Proficiency in official language of State of fieldwork

Fellows will not be employees of Government of India. The fellows are paid stipend of Rs. 50,000 per month in first year and Rs. 60,000 per month in second year. Upon completion of the programme, the Fellow would be awarded a Certificate in Public Policy and Management by the host IIM.

(c) One of the key challenges identified in the skilling ecosystem is non-availability of knowledgeable individuals for implementation of various skill development programmes especially at District levels. To address this gap, MGNF programme has been launched by MSDE which combines classroom sessions at selected Indian Institute for Managements (IIMs) with an intensive field immersion at the District level to strengthen the District Skill Committees (DSCs). The District Collector being the Chairperson of the District Skill Committee is the nodal person to reap the benefits of the MGNF in the district skilling ecosystem. The MGNF Programme has been designed to cover all the districts across the Country, hence the fellowships to be awarded would be more than 700.

(d) The present Fellowship programme does not provide any commitment to induct them as professional interns/ consultants within the State/ district level organizational setup.

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