

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 2051
ANSWERED ON - 20/12/2023

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR OBC STUDENTS

2051.DR. K. LAXMAN
SHRI KAILASH SONI

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

- (a) the aim of the National Fellowship for OBC Students;
- (b) the details of intake of Junior Research Fellows under the scheme for last five years, year-wise; and
- (c) whether there has been an enhancement in fellowship rates under the scheme since its inception, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK)

(a) Sir, the aim of the National Fellowship Scheme of Government for Other Backward Class students is Educational Empowerment of OBC students by way of awarding fellowship (financial assistance) in obtaining quality higher education. The scheme is designed to provide a total number of 1000 Junior Research Fellowships per year to undertake advanced studies and research leading to M.Phil. /Ph.D. Degrees, who have qualified in the following tests:

- i. National Eligibility Test) – Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC (for Humanities/Social Sciences) or
- ii. UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) NET-JRF Joint Test (for Sciences)

(b) Total no. of Junior Research Fellows under the scheme for the last five years is as follows:

(in Crore)

Year	JRF Scholars	Amount Disbursed to JRF Scholars
2018-19	324	10.29
2019-20	810	40.92
2020-21	772	25.59
2021-22	831	34.74
2022-23	1070	34.90

(c) Yes Sir, the existing rates under NF-OBC have been revised at par with UGC fellowships w.e.f 01.01.2023 for existing scholars under NF-OBC scheme as below:

- For JRF (Junior Research Fellowship):- From Rs 31,000/- pm for 2 years to Rs 37,000/- pm for 2 years
- For SRF (Senior Research Fellowship):- From Rs 35,000/- pm for remaining tenure to Rs 42,000/- pm for remaining tenure.
