

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO -168
ANSWERED ON - 11/12/2024

DELAYS IN NFOBC SCHEME

168. DR SYED NASEER HUSSAIN

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries supported and the amount of funds disbursed under the National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC) scheme over the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the delayed disbursement of stipends;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to address this critical issue;
- (d) the details of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place to assess performance of candidates in the fellowship program; and
- (e) whether the Ministry plans on expanding the size and funding of the scheme?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the part (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *168 to be answered on 11.12.2024 regarding "Delays in NFOBC scheme" asked by Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain

(a) The number of beneficiaries supported and the amount of funds disbursed under the National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC) scheme over the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	No. of Beneficiaries	Funds Disbursed (Rs in Cr.)
2021-22	1338	55.55
2022-23	1570	51.32
2023-24	2009	89.70

(b) & (c) University Grant Commission (UGC) has enhanced the Fellowship rates from Rs. 31,000/- per month for 2 years to Rs. 37,000/- per month for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Rs. 35,000/- per month to Rs. 42,000 /- per month for remaining tenure of 3 years for Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) from 1st January 2023. Due to implementation of these enhanced rates and increased number of beneficiaries, additional amount is required for which the scheme is under revision.

(d) As per the scheme guidelines, the tenure of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) is initially for two years under the NFOBC Scheme. Before expiry of this period, the work of the fellow is evaluated by a Committee of three members comprising of Head of the Department, Supervisor and one outside subject expert, constituted by the concerned Department of the /University/Institution/College. If the research work of the fellow is found satisfactory, his/her tenure is extended further for a period of three years with enhanced amount of the Senior Research Fellowship (SRF). The up-gradation of fellowship from Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) to Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) will be made at the level of University/Institution/College itself based on recommendations of the three members' committee report.

(e) Yes Sir.
