

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -453
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2025

DISCONTINUATION OF NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME FOR MARGINALIZED STUDENTS

453.SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

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

- (a) whether Government has discontinued the National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other economically and socially disadvantaged students pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D since 2023;
- (b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing the fellowship and whether any alternative support mechanisms have been provided to such students; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to address concerns of the students of SC, EWS categories?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (b) National Fellowship Scheme has not been discontinued. The National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste students (NFSC) and National Fellowship for OBC students (NF-OBC) by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, National Fellowship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Junior Research Fellowship by University Grants Commission (UGC) are being implemented to pursue advanced studies and research leading to Ph.D.

(c) The ongoing Schemes of Ministries cover the students of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) .While the Scheme of UGC follows the reservation policy of Government of India which includes SC, ST, OBC, EWS.
