

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2253
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

2253. DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds allocated during the last three years in the budget to implement Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship;
- (b) the number and details of Scheduled Tribe candidates who were awarded the scholarship annually for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D and M.Phil+Ph.D during the last three years;
- (c) the details of the actual expenditure under the said scheme and the achievements during the said period; and
- (d) whether any measures have been taken by the 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): The budget allocation under the erstwhile scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for the year 2014-15 was Rs.50.00 crores. During the year 2015-16, the two Central Sector scholarship schemes for 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 | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| BE | RE | BE | RE |
| 5000.00 | 4881.00 | 5000.00 | 8000.00 |

BE: Budget Estimates, RE: Revised Estimates

(b)&(c): The details of grants released, expenditure and the number of Scheduled Tribe candidates awarded the Fellowship under the "National Fellowship (RGNF)" component of the scheme 'National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students' for the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

| 2014-15 | | 2015-16 | | 2016-17 | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Expenditure | Beneficiaries | Expenditure | Beneficiaries | Expenditure | Beneficiaries |
| 0.00* | 3335 | 3000.00 | 1408 | 4512.25 | 2197 |

* Unspent fund available with UGC utilised during the year.

- (d) The scheme National Fellowship (Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship) for ST students was being implemented by the Ministry through University Grants Commission (UGC) till last year i.e., 2016-17. 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. During the current year 2017-18 (as on 28.12.17), a total amount of Rs.52.21 crores has been released towards fellowship for 1934 Scheduled Tribe fellowship candidates.
