

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4611  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2019

**Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship**

4611. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated a Central scheme under the name of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for SC/ST candidates from 2005- 2006 onwards, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said scheme is implemented by UGC, if so, the total amount of funds allocated to the Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RSTM) by UGC under the said scheme during the years from 2007 to 2016, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the details of candidates in RSTM, Nagpur University who were awarded the fellowship under the RGNF during the said years and how many of these awardees have successfully completed their M.Phil./ Ph. D. degree; and

(d) whether the total amount of fellowship allocated under the RGNF Scheme has been disbursed to their respective candidates after their successful completion of M.Phil./Ph. D. degree during the years 2007 to 2016 and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a): Yes, Sir. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) is formulated and funded by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) respectively. The scheme provides financial assistance as fellowship, contingency and HRA etc. to selected candidates belonging to SC/ST Categories for pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D research on full time/regular basis in Universities/Institutions/ Colleges in India.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing RGNF for SC/ST candidates. The RGNF for ST is fully transferred to MoTA from the selection year 2017-18.

As informed by the UGC, the scholars are selected based upon the State-wise slots fixed by the respective Ministries. Thus, the fellowships are awarded to the scholars irrespective of University/Institution/College.

Funds amounting to Rs. 398.20 lakhs and Rs. 42.80 lakhs have been released to Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RSTM) under RGNF-SC and RGNF-ST schemes respectively for the period 2006-07 to 2016-17. The total number of beneficiaries for the same period has been 106 under RGNF-SC and 11 under RGNF-ST from RSTM.

The UGC has further informed that these schemes are on tenure basis and scholarship is provided to the scholars for five years or till the submission of their Ph.D thesis, whichever is earlier. The fellowship is paid as long as there is confirmation from the respective institutions of satisfactory research work by the scholars but limited to maximum of 5 years.

(d): Rs.1123.91 crore and Rs.389.06 crore were released towards RGNF for SC and RGNF for ST between the financial years 2007-08 to 2016-17 respectively.

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