

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3070
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021**

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

3070. SHRI SHANTANU THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and salient features of the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Program along with the present status;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to introduce this said program in all the state/UTs across the Country; and;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, district wise including West-Bengal?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
(SHRI R.K SINGH)**

(a) Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) is a two-year academic programme launched by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under its World Bank Loan assisted Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme. MGNF Programme combines classroom sessions at selected Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs) with an intensive field immersion at the District level to strengthen the District Skill Committees (DSCs). In the course of their training, the fellows would be an asset and resource person for the District Skill Committee (DSC) to develop, manage and coordinate the skill programmes at the District level. The State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) and DSCs have a key role to play in the successful implementation of this programme. The SSDMs are responsible for creating a robust and responsive support mechanism for the fellows deployed in the Districts.

The eligibility criteria prescribed for being a Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow are as under:

- i. The candidate should possess a minimum qualification of a graduate degree from a recognized University;
- ii. The candidate should be a citizen of India;
- iii. The candidate should be in the age group of 21-30 years;
- iv. The candidate should possess Proficiency in official language of State of fieldwork.

Fellows will not be employees of Government of India. The fellows are paid stipend of Rs. 50,000 per month in first year and Rs. 60,000 per month in second year. Upon completion of the programme, the Fellow would be awarded a Certificate in Public Policy and Management by the host IIM.

Phase-I of MGNF Programme was launched on 08.03.2020, with IIM Bangalore as the Academic Partner. Currently, 69 Fellows are deployed in 69 Districts across six States namely Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Yes, MSDE has launched the National roll-out (Phase-II) of MGNF programme to cover all Districts (excluding the Districts covered under Phase-I of MGNF) across the country, including all Districts of West Bengal. The advertisement for which was released on 13.02.2021. MSDE has onboarded 9 IIMs namely, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Lucknow, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Visakhapatnam, IIM Udaipur, IIM Nagpur, IIM Ranchi and IIM Jammu to act as the Academic Partners for the Phase-II of MGNF programme.
