

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- †1718
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 05/12/2024

FELLOWSHIPS FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS

†1718. SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the fellowship amount of 15,400 dollars per year given in the year 2013 is still same in the year 2024 under the National Overseas Scholarship to the Scheduled Tribe students;
- (b) whether Junior Research Fellowship amount being provided to domestic students have been increased to Rs. 37000 per month in 2024 from Rs. 16000 per month in the year 2013;
- (c) whether students studying abroad have also been adversely affected by inflation due to no-hike in annual fellowship amount, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Central Government proposes to increase the annual fellowship amount from the current 15,400 dollars keeping in view of the prevailing standards of living abroad; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to increase the number of seats for ST studying pursuing higher studies abroad to the same level as provided to SC students to at least 70 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) And (c): Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing studies abroad. The Fellowship amount paid has 2 two broad components; the Fee and the Stipend. The fee comprises of tuition fee, which being the major component of the fellowship, is paid as per actual along with other non-refundable fee which is required to be compulsorily paid by the student for completion of the course.

The stipend comprises of 8 components, 3 components namely Annual maintenance allowance (\$15,400/£ 9,900), Annual Contingency and Equipment Allowance (\$ 1532/ £ 1116) and Incidental Journey Expenses (USD 18.70) are fixed components. The other 5 components namely Poll Tax, Visa Fee, Incidental Journey Expenses, Medical insurance Premium, Cost of Air Passage and Local Travel are paid on actual basis.

As major components of the Overseas scholarship including fee are paid as per actual so are not impacted by inflation. The annual maintenance amount of 15,400 US dollars per has remained same since 2013. The Ministry had done evaluation study of the NOS scheme in 2019-20 before the finance cycle (2021-26), where in detailed feed back of the students was taken with regard to amount of scholarship. Based on the feedback and deliberations, the rates of scholarship were decided for

Finance Cycle 2021-26. Further as the scholarship is paid in dollar and is not impacted with the change in rupee per dollar rate, which has increased from Rs 56 in 2013 to Rs 84 in 2024.

(b): Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing National Fellowship Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribe students. Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) scholars is currently paid Rs. 37,000 per month in 2024, up from Rs. 16,000 per month in 2013. This revision aligns with the guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

(d) & (e): Currently there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
