

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2849  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2026**

**SCHOLARSHIP TO SC COMMUNITY**

**2849. SHRI PRADEEP PUROHIT:**

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

- (a) the details of the scholarship/fellowship schemes currently being implemented by the Government for SC/ST Ph.D. scholars, along with the eligibility criteria prescribed under each scheme;
- (b) whether separate categories of scholarships/fellowships are available for candidates belonging to SC/ST communities who have qualified the UGC-NET examination and if so, the details thereof, including the three categories of eligibility, financial assistance provided and duration of such support;
- (c) the total number of beneficiaries under each of the above schemes during the last three years, year and State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance access, awareness and timely disbursement of scholarships to SC/ST Ph.D. scholars?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a): The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are implementing the 'National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students' (NFSC) and the 'National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribe Students' (NFST) for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Ph.D. scholars respectively.

The eligibility criteria for SC and ST students for these schemes is as under:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>
National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC)	(i) Qualifying UGC-NET (JRF) or Joint UGC-CSIR NET examination and securing admission in Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). (ii) No age limit
National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribe Students (NFST)	(i) At least 55% marks in Post-Graduation and qualifying UGC-NET or Joint UGC-CSIR NET examination and securing admission in Universities/Institutions covered under the scheme. (ii) Maximum age 36 years

(b): Under National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) and National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Tribe Students (NFST), there are no separate categories of scholarships/fellowships. However under NFSC scheme, out of 2000 slots annually, 1500 slots for UGC-NET (for humanities) and 500 slots for joint UGC-CSIR NET (for science stream) have been earmarked.

(c): The State/UT-wise details of SC and ST beneficiaries during last three years is at **Annexure.**

(d): To enhance access, awareness, and timely disbursement of scholarships to SC/ST Ph.D. scholars, the Government has undertaken several measures such as implementation of the schemes through a dedicated online Scholarship and Fellowship Management Portal (SFMP), disbursement of fellowships through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in the aadhaar seeded account of the eligible applicants, streamlining of verification processes and dissemination of information through the websites and outreach activities of the Department, NSFDC and UGC to ensure wider awareness among eligible students.

The Annexure refer to in part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 2849 to be answered on 10.03.2026 regarding "SCHOLARSHIP TO SC COMMUNITY"

Details of Year-wise and State/UT-wise number of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Scholars covered under NFSC and NFST Scheme during 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Sl. No.	State/UT Name	Number of Scholars					
		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	12	0	20	1	6	1
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	77	106	147	90	105	59
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1	129	0	133	0	142
4	ASSAM	51	180	70	189	86	195
5	BIHAR	49	15	93	13	85	10
6	CHANDIGARH	12	0	16	0	19	0
7	CHHATTISGARH	31	101	43	109	54	113
8	DELHI	196	0	250	0	260	0
9	GOA	0	1	0	1	1	0
10	GUJARAT	37	145	53	146	47	113
11	HARYANA	194	0	258	0	263	0
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	125	45	157	54	160	35
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	57	119	73	119	69	103
14	JHARKHAND	24	74	31	73	34	67
15	KARNATAKA	150	296	213	289	200	203
16	KERALA	90	14	125	12	140	11
17	LADAKH	0	51	0	55	0	53
18	LAKSHADWEEP	0	1	0	1	0	1
19	MADHYA PRADESH	59	67	118	53	107	36
20	MAHARASHTRA	102	79	147	81	149	69
21	MANIPUR	18	138	32	147	43	139
22	MEGHALAYA	1	122	1	142	1	138
23	MIZORAM	0	292	0	288	0	340
24	NAGALAND	0	186	0	216	0	222
25	ODISHA	68	141	106	142	84	191
26	PUDUCHERRY	3	0	4	2	5	1
27	PUNJAB	212	0	243	0	221	0
28	RAJASTHAN	128	102	176	104	174	88
29	SIKKIM	3	20	4	21	4	20
30	TAMIL NADU	75	27	107	24	102	22
31	TELANGANA	111	353	166	313	122	173
32	THE DADRA NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	0	0	0	1	0	1
33	TRIPURA	6	35	6	46	4	51
34	UTTAR PRADESH	462	10	735	15	776	17
35	UTTARAKHAND	58	6	88	8	95	8
36	WEST BENGAL	483	83	687	87	727	76
	<b>Total</b>	<b>*2895</b>	<b>2938</b>	<b>*4169</b>	<b>2975</b>	<b>*4143</b>	<b>2698</b>

\*As the tenure of Fellowship under NFSC Scheme is upto 5 years and a Scholar is repeated over the years, therefore, a Scholar is counted once during the year despite multiple payments.

Source: Scholarship and Fellowship Management Portal (SFMP)