

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *5
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2015

Non-NET Fellowships

*5 . **SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:**
SHRI SATISH KUMAR GAUTAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed a Review Committee to look into the National Eligibility Test (NET) and Non-NET Fellowships provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to students in various Universities/ Institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of issues entrusted to the Committee and the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of intensified protests by a section of research scholars against decision of University Grants Commission to discontinue Non-NET Fellowship and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) whether the Government has urged UGC to hold in abeyance the decision to discontinue the non-NET fellowships and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.5 FOR ANSWER ON 30.11.2015 ASKED BY SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY AND SHRI SATISH KUMAR GAUTAM, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING NON-NET FELLOWSHIPS

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government has appointed a Committee on 28th October, 2015, under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Gautam Barua, former Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati to go into the issues related to the research fellowships provided by the UGC, covering both National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowships and Non-NET fellowships. Other members of the Committee are the following: (i) Prof. Syed Bari, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat; (ii) Prof. Kuldeep Agnihotri, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh; (iii) Dr. Meena Rajiv Chandawarkar, Vice Chancellor, Karnataka State Women's University; and (v) Secretary, University Grants Commission as Member Convenor.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are the following, namely: a) determining the feasibility of enhancing the coverage of NET fellowships, which are merit based; b) establishing a transparent system of transfer of fellowship amounts each month to the Non-NET fellows, which is presently being done on a reimbursement basis, and without the Direct Benefit Transfer mandated by the Government; c) bringing the benefits and opportunities of the Non-NET fellowship scheme to a large number of Universities, including State Universities; d) considering economic and other criteria for eligibility for Non-NET fellowships; and e) recommending guidelines for the selection, coverage, award, and administration of the non-NET fellowships.

Other details of the committee are available at http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/ReviewUGCFellowships.pdf.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Central Government has directed the UGC not to implement the Commission's decision discontinuing the Non-NET fellowships and to continue all existing and continuing fellowships, NET as well as Non-NET. It has also been decided that the existing awards under Non-NET fellowships will not be reduced rather expanded and that guidelines for selection, coverage, award and administration of Non-NET fellowships be developed to enable an enhancement in these fellowships.
