

annual gross parental family income is not more than ₹4.5 lacs per year (from all sources) and is provided only once, either for the first undergraduate degree course or the post graduate degrees/diplomas in India. Interest Subsidy is, however, admissible for integrated courses (graduate + post graduate). The scheme is independent of any other schemes which may cater to Economically Weaker Sections.

### **Hike in stipends of JRF and SRF**

840. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a system of annual hikes in the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) stipends to keep up with the inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to introduce a system of annual hikes in the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) stipends to keep up with inflation as the amount disbursed under these fellowships are not automatically linked to changes in price indices. However, the University Grants Commission has hiked the basic fellowship amounts of ₹16,000/- and ₹18,000/- under JRF/SRF respectively, by the following amounts, with effect from 1st December, 2014:

(i) for Basic Sciences these amounts have been enhanced to be at par with the similar basic fellowship amounts disbursed by Department of Science and Technology;

(ii) for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences these amounts have been hiked by 55%.

### **Contribution of education in GDP**

841. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of education in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in India and other countries, each separately; and

(b) the comparative figures of expenditure on education in India and other countries, each separately ?