

**Encouragement to SC/ST students for
research studies**

3313. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any schemes for encouragement of SC/ST students to pursue research studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of applicants and beneficiaries and the funds allocated therefor, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has ensured subsidised hostel and mess facilities for the students belonging to this category and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): (a) to (c) The Schemes of National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) students respectively offer research fellowships to eligible SC and ST students for pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D. Studies. University Grants Commission (UGC) is the nodal Agency for implementing the schemes. State-wise fund is not allocated under this scheme. The details of fund released to UGC during 2015-16 and 2016-17 alongwith the number of beneficiaries are as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Scheme	2015-16		2016-17	
	Fund released	Beneficiaries	Fund released	Beneficiaries
National Fellowship-SC	200.55	2000	196.00	2000
National Fellowship-ST	31.38	748	73.00	750

Under this scheme, those Students who are not provided with the Hostel accommodation, are paid admissible House Rent Allowance.

Beside the above, Post-matric Scholarship Scheme and National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SC and ST students respectively also provide scholarship for M.Phil and Ph.D studies. However, State-wise data on number of students pursuing research studies and amount utilized thereon is not maintained separately.