

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.992
ANSWERED ON 04/12/2024

Non Net Fellowship for PhD students

992 **Shri Abdul Wahab:**

Will the Minister of **Education** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many students who are pursuing PhD in Indian Universities are dependent on non-net fellowship which is merely ₹8,000 per month;
- (b) if so, the details of students receiving non-net fellowship amount, University-wise details thereof;
- (c) when was the non-net fellowship amount last revised by Government or Universities;
- (d) whether it is a fact that a stipend of ₹8,000 per month is sufficient for a student to pursue PhD with a dignified standards of life;
- (e) whether Government is considering to revise the amount for non-net fellowship soon; and
- (f) if not, the reasons thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (f) The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) based on the National Eligibility Test (NET). Six percent of the candidates who appear in the NET are qualified for Assistant Professor and out of these qualified candidates, UGC awards JRF for 11,750 slots per year. In addition, fellowships are also offered by different Ministries and Organizations to support the scholars pursuing Ph.D.. Special fellowships are provided for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disabilities and Single Girl Child. The Ph.D. scholars are eligible to join research projects sanctioned by various funding agencies to the Universities and to avail of funding to support their research, leading to the award of a Ph.D..

Further, some students are admitted to Ph.D. courses by the Universities without financial support from any source. To enlarge the scope, UGC decided to partially support such students by providing a stipend in the form of non-NET Fellowships. These Non-NET Fellowships have been benefitting M.Phil./Ph.D. students enrolled in various Central Universities across the country, especially the students of Universities located in the remote areas and North-Eastern regions of the country.

The details of Non-Net Fellowships during 2023-24 are available at https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/3211399_Data_of_Non_NET_Fellowship-2023-24.pdf .
