

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2202
ANSWERED ON - 19/03/2025

DELAY IN DISBURSEMENT OF NFOBC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

2202. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the delayed and irregular disbursement of National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC) scholarship scheme;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the Ministry has not released the adequate funds/budget in 2024-2025 for this scholarship;
- (c) whether Government is aware that last payment released was in June since 2022; and
- (d) if so, whether Government has taken any step in addressing this issue and the reason for not increasing the budget?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) to (d) The University Grant Commission (UGC), in October 2023, decided to enhance the fellowship payable to Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) scholars from Rs. 31,000/- to Rs 37,000/- per month and the fellowship payable to Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) scholars from Rs. 35,000/- to Rs 42,000/- per month. The enhanced rates have been implemented by UGC from January 1, 2023. Further, the number of OBC research scholars selected under the National Fellowship for OBCs (NF-OBC) Scheme run by the Department has also increased over the years. Due to the increased rates and the increase in the number of research scholars under NF-OBC Scheme, the Department had to seek approval from the Department of Expenditure, which has been received and the matter is under process for disbursement of fellowship amount to the scholars.
