

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

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Scholarships to Disabled Students

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) provides for scholarship to students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M. Phil. and Ph.D. The scheme is implemented by University Grants Commissions (UGC) on the pattern of UGC fellowship scheme. Any student with disability who has been admitted to M.Phil./Ph.D. course in a University or academic institution is eligible for the award of Fellowship.

The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is implementing two Schemes, namely, Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund) and Scholarship Scheme (National Fund), for award of scholarship to students with disabilities pursuing Higher and Technical education. Student with 40% or more disabilities having prescribed income ceiling under the scheme are eligible for the scholarship.

The number of Scholarship under (Trust Fund) Scholarship Scheme has been increased from 1000 to 1500 per year from the year 2013-14. 3018 students have been benefited by Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund) from 2011-12 onward till date.

An amount of Rs.63,90,016/- has been provided from the year 2011-12 onwards cost of assistive devices such as laptop, Braille Type writer and Mobile phone etc. to the differently abled students in the Scholarship Scheme (Trust Fund).

An approximate amount of Rs. 15 crore is likely to be incurred for disbursement of 1500 Scholarship (Trust Fund) during the academic year 2013-14.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri P. Balram Naik in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.
