

## **AIDSO on the decision of stopping of Non-NET Fellowship:**

*The UGC's (University Grants Commission) move to stop fellowship for Non-NET (National Eligibility Test) students doing their M-Phil and Phd has come as a rude shock for the students of our country. Condemning this anti-education move, the All India General Secretary of AIDSO (All India Democratic Students' Organisation) Sri Ashok Mishra, has issued following statement:*

“It is deplorable that under the pretext of ‘getting a lot of complaints about the fellowship’ the UGC has withdrawn the fellowship. It’s an irony that when less than 10% of the youth population is pursuing higher education in India, the government is drastically cutting down budgetary allocation for education. Eminent scientists are already worried about the pathetic state of research in India. Brilliant students are not motivated towards research is a matter of grave concern for all of us. Poverty, escalating cost of education, ignominious fellowship scale and lack of infrastructure facilities, among others are major causes for the fall of research standards in India! So, this decision of UGC to discontinue the fellowship for M.Phil and Phd students in all central universities will seriously jeopardize research and drastically bring down enrollment in higher education. Further, the UGC’s decision to continue fellowship to only those who have completed NET is discriminatory and a step towards dividing the student community.

Irrespective of their field of work, across the country the research scholars are tirelessly engaged in enriching the collective human knowledge. They are playing a vital role in the advancement of science, technology and production of our country. No instruments can measure this gigantic human endeavour! But all through successive governments neglected the research and research scholars of our country; never gave adequate funds. Since several years the research scholars of our country are fighting for hike in fellowship and its timely disbursement. Last year they came to streets in thousands and forced the government to concede to some of their demands. With renewed vigour their struggle to fulfill other demands is continuing. Instead of solving their problems, the present Union government and the UGC are out to drive a wedge of disunity among the struggling research scholars. They are out to stop the fellowship for non-NET students; while it is being continued for those who have completed NET! By this move the Central government will only save peanuts, while the salaries and perks of ministers and bureaucrats and their extravagant expenditures continue unabatedly! This policy will discourage the academic work and will cause irreparable damage to the research atmosphere of India.

It is also to be noted that on the one hand the governments are gradually slashing down the budgetary allocation to education. On the other hand they are repeatedly interfering in the administrative and academic affairs of universities; thus trampling under its feet the autonomous functioning of an university. Such practices are opposed to the very concept of Democratic Education.

AIDSO calls upon the all research scholars of the country to further strengthen their unity and force the UGC to immediately withdraw its retrograde decision. AIDSO also calls upon the students and all education loving people in general and research scholars, scientists and educationists in particular to develop countrywide movement against the undemocratic and anti-education decision of the UGC.”