

SPEAKER'S RESEARCH INITIATIVE

LOK SABHA

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

Guidelines and Rules

Relating to

Lok Sabha Research Fellowships

2018-19

LOK SABHA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

1. Preamble

The Parliament of India is the highest deliberative body and supreme representative institution of the largest working democracy in the world. It is in its Chambers that the destiny of a nation of a billion plus people is shaped. Members of the two Houses of Parliament have many procedural devices to articulate the concerns and considerations of the people, to keep the Executive accountable at all times and to closely monitor the policies and programmes for national welfare. Since independence, the institution of Parliament has carved out a special place for itself in the hearts and minds of our people.

That being so, there is an increasing need for an in-depth enquiry and research on subjects of parliamentary interest. This is required with a view to better understanding the functioning of our Parliament, to identify the changing nature and role of our parliamentary institutions and to suggest alternatives in the light of the experiences in other democratic countries. The Lok Sabha Secretariat proposes to encourage and support such original studies by way of granting Research Fellowships to interested scholars.

Proposals for research projects may involve writing a Book based on past research experience or analysis and interpretation of primary data/material collected through the survey method or research based on secondary data.

2. Fellowships for writing Books

The Lok Sabha Secretariat will grant twenty-five Research Fellowships every year, on any subject having relevance or connection with the Parliament or Parliamentary democracy.

3. Duration

The duration of the Fellowships will be of two years with no further extension to be granted in this regard.

4. Eligibility

- (i) The scholar should not be less than 25 and more than 70 years of age on the last date of application.
- (ii) The scholar must possess a Master degree in any of the social science disciplines with outstanding research publications at the time of application.

- (iii) The scholar must be a person with an outstanding academic record in any discipline relevant to parliamentary studies or should be an expert in her/his own domain.

5. Selection Procedure for granting Research Fellowships

- (i) The selection for the grant of Research Fellowships will be made by a Fellowship Committee.
- (ii) An advertisement will be issued in major national dailies in Hindi, English and regional languages announcing the Fellowships. The advertisement will be uploaded on the Lok Sabha website prominently, mentioning therein detailed procedure for submission of applications. Major central universities and reputed educational institutions; all national law institutes/universities; all State Legislatures; Lok Sabha Television; Rajya Sabha Television; Doordarshan; media organizations and other reputed institutions will be requested to forward names of suitable candidates to the Lok Sabha Secretariat for consideration by the Fellowship Committee. The notice regarding the Fellowship Scheme may also be circulated among the media persons covering the proceedings of Parliament.
- (iii) The Fellowship Committee may also *suo motu* consider meritorious scholars for the Fellowship.
- (iv) The applicant will be required to send in his/her particulars in the prescribed format (Annexure), duly filled-in, along with a Synopsis of 1000 words of his/her proposal.
- (v) Applications are initially scrutinized by the Lok Sabha Secretariat (SRI Cell).
- (vi) Thereafter, Fellowship Committee will shortlist the meritorious proposals from the eligible applications.
- (vii) Such applicants would then be invited for an interaction/presentation before the Fellowship Committee.
- (viii) The Fellowship Committee shall consider and recommend the names to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, for the grant of Lok Sabha Fellowships.

- (ix) If the Fellowship Committee does not find any applicant suitable for the grant of the Fellowship, no Fellowship may be granted during that year. The Committee may, however, consider awarding the Fellowship for that particular year in the next year, subject to the availability of funds.
- (vii) A Fellow has to submit quarterly Progress Report of the Fellowship project for the consideration and satisfaction of the Fellowship Committee. The final Report shall be submitted in triplicate for the appraisal and perusal of the Fellowship Committee.

6. Guidelines for submission of proposals

- (i) While submitting the proposal, the format may broadly be according to the following order of points and conform to the guidelines given under:

- (a) *Title of the Project*

- (b) *Statement of the Problem:* In the opening paragraphs of the research proposal, the problem to be investigated should be stated clearly and briefly. The significance of the problem in the theoretical context of the discipline concerned should be specified.

- (c) *Overview of Literature:* Summarizing the current status of research in the area, including major findings, the project proposal should clearly demonstrate the relevance of the findings or approaches for the investigation of the problem at hand.

- (d) *Conceptual Framework:* Given the problem and the theoretical perspective for investigation of the problem, the proposal should clearly indicate the concepts to be used and demonstrate their relevance for the study. It should further specify the empirical dimension, if any, that needs to be explored for investigating the problem.

- (e) *Research Questions/Hypotheses:* Given the conceptual framework and dimensions of the problem, specific questions to be answered and hypotheses to be tested through the proposed study should be explicitly formulated, compatible with the research design.

- (f) *Coverage:* In the light of the questions raised or the hypotheses proposed to be tested, if sampling becomes necessary, full information on the following points should be given:

- (i) Universe of the Study, (ii) Sampling Frame, and (iii) Units of Observation and Sampling size.

- (i) If the study requires any control groups, they should be specifically mentioned. An explanation of the determination of size and type of the sample shall also be necessary. Proposals not requiring a sample selection should specify their strategy appropriately and describe the rationale.
- (ii) **Methodology**: A suitable description of the methods of research for the study may be given.
- (iii) **Data Collection**: The different types of data that are proposed to be gathered should be specifically mentioned. The sources for each type and the tools and techniques that will be used for collecting different types of data should also be specified.
- (iv) **Time Budgeting**: The project should be broken up in suitable stages and the time required for the completion of each stage of work should be specified.
- (v) **Bibliography**

7. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The selected research scholar shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lok Sabha Secretariat undertaking to abide by the terms and conditions mentioned therein.

8. Amount of Fellowship

The total amount of each Fellowship for writing Books will be a maximum of Rs.10 lakh (Rupees Ten lakh only), plus Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only) as contingency allowance. The contingency allowance may be utilized for meeting costs such as purchase of books, journals, stationeries, photocopying, typing, travel expenses and related expenditures. The amount sanctioned to a Fellow will be disbursed in instalments, subject to the satisfactory progress of the project and recommendation of the Fellowship Committee to that effect.

9. Library facility

The scholars will be provided the facility to access the Parliament Library.

10. Publication Assistance in respect of Books

- (i) After the final report of the Fellowship is recommended by the Fellowship

Committee for publication and subsequently approved by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Fellow shall be required to enter into an agreement with a reputed publisher for the publication of the Book and a copy of the agreement may be provided to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

- (ii) The following text shall be prominently printed on the back of the inner title page of the Book for which publication grant has been provided by the Secretariat:

„The publication of the Book has been financially supported by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The responsibility for the facts stated or opinions expressed is entirely of the author and not of the Lok Sabha Secretariat“.
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- (iii) In case publication assistance is granted by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Fellow shall supply 50 copies of the publication on complimentary basis to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- (iv) In case publication assistance is not granted by the Lok Sabha Secretariat or the Fellow does not seek any assistance and intends to publish it on his/her own, the Secretariat may invoke the 'Disclaimer Clause', i.e. *„The responsibility for the facts stated or opinions expressed is entirely of the author and not of the Lok Sabha Secretariat“*, and grant permission for the same. In that case, he/she will supply 10 copies of the publication to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on complimentary basis.

11. Completion of Fellowship

The Fellow is required to complete the research project within the period of two years from the date of the award. In other cases, the scholar can leave by refunding the entire amount already released by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. If the scholar leaves without completion of the work and without informing the Secretariat, he/she has to refund the entire amount of Fellowship released as per the undertaking given by the Fellows.

12. General

The decision of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, will be final in all matters relating to the Fellowships.

13. Copyright

The copyright of the publication shall vest with the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

CONDITIONS

1. That the research project shall be completed and the final manuscript of the Book shall be submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat within the stipulated time as mentioned in the Guidelines and Rules.
2. That the quarterly progress report of the work shall be submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat as scheduled. The Lok Sabha Secretariat may also seek update on progress of the work at any other time.
3. That non-submission of reports as desired by the Lok Sabha Secretariat may lead to suspension/cancellation of the grant without notice.
4. That the Lok Sabha Secretariat has the right to terminate the award at any time, without intimation, if the progress is found to be unsatisfactory, for any reasons whatsoever, by the Fellowship Committee.
5. After the completion of the study, a declaration to the effect that “The project being basically the work of the author, the Lok Sabha Secretariat is not responsible for factual errors, inaccuracies and inferences, if any”, shall be suitably incorporated in the manuscript by the Fellow.
6. The Fellow, who has been granted the research project, would be required to acknowledge the assistance from the Lok Sabha Secretariat in such terms as may be specified by the Secretariat under the authority of the Fellowship Committee.
7. The copyright of the publication shall vest with the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
8. The decision of the Hon“ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, shall be final in all matters.

Signature of the Fellow

Place:

Date:

UNDERTAKING

1. I hereby accept the Research Fellowship for writing Book offered by the Lok Sabha Secretariat amounting to Rs.....plus contingency allowance of Rs..... (Rupees _____) to be disbursed in instalments on the subject entitled,
“ _____ ”
_____ and I agree to fulfill all the requirements and conditions attached to the grant and abide by the existing Rules as well as those likely to be framed in future.
2. I will not accept financial assistance from any other source for undertaking research on the same subject/project.
3. I agree that the Lok Sabha Secretariat has the right to suspend or terminate the award if I violate/modify/ignore any of the conditions attached to it.
4. I do agree that in the event of termination of the award by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, any recovery may be effected either from me or through my institution at the discretion of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Signature of the Fellow

Signature of the Head of the Department/Institution
(Wherever applicable)

Place:

Date:

Annexure

***APPLICATION FORM FOR GRANT OF LOK SABHA FELLOWSHIPS
FOR WRITING BOOKS ON PARLIAMENTARY SUBJECTS**

Affix recent
Passport-size
Colour Photograph

1. Name _____
(In block letters)
2. Parent's Name _____
(In block letters)
3. Date of Birth _____
4. Category (SC/ST/OBC/General) _____
5. Address for Correspondence _____

Tel _____ Mobile _____ E-mail _____
6. Permanent Address _____

Tel _____ Mobile _____ E-mail _____
7. Institution with which currently working (with address) (wherever applicable)

Tel _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
8. Educational Qualifications: (Please specify only three major degrees)
(Start with the most advanced degree)

Sl. No.	Degree/Certificate	Institution	Year (From - To)

9. Professional Experience, if any (Attach a separate sheet, where necessary)

Sl. No.	Title	Institution	Year (From - To)

10. Relevant Research Experience/Publications: (Attach a separate sheet, where necessary)

Sl. No.	Title	Institution	Year (From - To)

11. Publications, if any: (Attach a separate sheet, where necessary)

12. Experience in the field of Parliamentary Studies, if any (Attach a separate sheet, if necessary)

Research Proposal

Please attach with this application a Synopsis of the proposed research project in 1000 words. The research proposal should *inter alia* cover the following:

- Abstract • Title, Background and Statement of the Research Problem • Overview of Literature
- Conceptual Framework • Research Questions/Hypotheses • Coverage of Hypotheses • Sampling
- Methodology • Data Collection • Time Budgeting • Bibliography • Tentative outline of the final report.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Place:

Applicant's Signature

Date:

**The application should be forwarded through the Head of the Department/Institution where the applicant is working (wherever applicable).*