

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2015

## PRESS RELEASE

### Protest for stipend hike

By post-graduate students of IIT Bombay

More than 500 students of IIT Bombay today conducted a peaceful protest in institute premises for long pending hike in stipend. The protest march started from hostel 12 and destined at main gate. The students then discussed their demands amid slogans and dispersed after the national anthem. The delay in hike, disparity in date of effectiveness and poor coordination among different funding agencies has caused great discontent among research scholars and masters students. The objective of protest was to highlight key demands of students.

Previously, a signature campaign was carried out among students in the month of August, 2014. Nearly 3800 students signed the petition with subject “Increase in fellowship” seeking hike in stipend and provision for annual increment of the same. On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, this petition along with all signatures was handed over to Hon. HRD minister Mrs. Smriti Irani during her visit to IIT Bombay. She gave assurance to extend her full support in addressing the issue.

On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014, Hon. Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced and subsequently issued notification of hike in stipend. This was applicable to the research scholars receiving funds from Department of Science and Technology. The hike was announced with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. The stipend for UGC students was later increased by same amount but with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Most of the students in IITs are supported by MHRD for stipend. MHRD issued a notification vide no. **F.NO.I7-2/2014-TS.I dated February 18, 2015**, but with following clauses which will have severe repercussions as described below:

1. The hike in scholarship is approved **with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2015**, which brings disparity with the similar circular brought out by the DST vide no. **F.NO.I7-2/2014-TS.I** dated October 21, 2014.
2. The para 2.3 of the notification mentions “**The concerned Institution should review the performance of the Fellow after two years through an appropriate Review Committee constituted by the Head of the Institution. The fellowship in the slab after 2 years of research experience may be provided after successful assessment by the Review Committee**” but the table which shows the amount and scheme of revised emolument neither mentions, that Junior Research Fellow (JRF) will be promoted to Senior Research Fellow (SRF) with 28,000/- pm after two years of research, nor there is any amount mentioned for SRF after satisfactory completion of first two years of their research.

As a matter of fact the scholarship had seen last hike in the year 2010 and needs the revision as an obvious process with time in order to satisfy the basic needs of research scholars. But unfortunately after such a long protest and continuous perusal, the notification comes but with aforementioned flaws. This certainly will cause an atmosphere of despair among research scholars, a major reason for brain drain in India.

Hence, we wish to convey our following **demands** very strongly:

1. Increase in stipend with **effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014**.
2. **Slab implementation** in hike. Students in JRF slab should get 28,000/-p.m. after completion of two years of research and those in SRF slab should get 31,500/- p.m. after completion of first two years of research. Reference to annexure.
3. **Disbursal** of revised fellowship **by the end of March 2015**, with arrears.
4. Provision for **annual revision** of fellowship
5. A **dedicated government official** be responsible for coordinating with students on behalf of 'all existing funding agencies' and 'related ministers' and vice versa. The reply time for any query of students to this official not being more than 5 working days.

Other funding agencies like CSIR, which are yet to announce the hike should do so with immediate effect.

Any clarifications may please be sent by email to student representative, Mr. Shubham Badjate, General Secretary of Academic Affairs – PG at shubham.gsiitb@gmail.com

## Annexure for proposed emoluments

For **PhD students:**

Sl. No.	Qualifying Degree	Existing Rates per month	Proposed Emoluments per month
1.	Qualifying degree in professional courses (BE/ BTech or equivalent) and GATE or equivalent qualification OR Post graduate degree in basic sciences (MSc or equivalent) and NET qualified.	1st & 2nd year Rs. 16,000/=	1st & 2nd year Rs. 25,000/=
		Up to 5th year Rs. 18,000/=	Up to 5th year Rs. 28,000/=
2.	Post graduate degree in professional courses (ME, MTech or equivalent) OR qualifying degree for JRF with two years of research experience	1st & 2nd year Rs. 18,000/=	1st & 2nd year Rs. 28,000/=
		3rd & 4th year Rs. 20,000/=	3rd & 4th year Rs. 31,500/=

For **Masters students:**

Sl. No.	Enrolled program	Existing Rates per month	Proposed Emoluments per month
1.	M.Tech./M.Phil/M.Des 2 year Teaching Assistantship program	Rs. 8,000/=	Rs. 12,400/=
2.	M.Tech. 3 year Research Assistantship program	Rs. 9,000/= with increment of Rs. 1,000/= per anum	Rs. 14,000/= with increment of Rs. 1,500/= per anum