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Protesting research scholars demand hike in scholarships

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A large number of research scholars from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, JNU, National Institute of Immunology, Translational Health Research Institute, Jamia Milia Islamia, Jamia Hamdard, International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Enmas branch of Defence Research and Development Organisation, demonstrated peacefully demanding hike and timely revision of fellowships.

The protestors had gathered outside the office of the Department of Science and Technology to present their demands before higher authorities. Later, they were given an audience by the minister of science and technology, Dr Jitendra Singh who assured them of positive consideration of the demads. They were accompanied by the secretary, DBT and DST, Dr K Vijay Raghavan.Â

As per one of the student spokespersons, "We had a satisfying meeting with the honourable minister. He patiently heard our requests and assured us of a speedy implementation of hike in fellowship. We are very thankful to Dr VijayRaghavan, Dr Brakaspathy, Dr Inderjeet Singh and other DST staff for supporting us and for presenting our case well. We are hopeful of speedy implementation of our requests and our genuine requests are heeded to."

It is important to note that there has been no further increase in the fellowship amount given to Junior Research Fellows (JRFs), Senior Research Fellows (SRFs) and Research Associates since April, 2010.

The protesting students have been demanding that a 10 perecent hike be made with due consideration to the rising inflation and fellowship be revised with effect from April 1, 2014.Â