

Last word

Jairam's fellowship for Naxal-infested districts

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi

Union Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh is looking for motivated youths willing to work as fellows in the Maoist-affected districts. Their prime task will be to wean away tribals and villagers from the influence of the left anarchists.

You are a candidate if you are between 25 and 30 and have a master's degree in

social sciences, management, law or engineering. Weightage will be given to those with work experience with social organisations.

Jairam is launching the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowship with an advertisement on Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary on Monday inviting applications. It is on the lines of the prestigious White House fellowship programme for leadership and public services, in



vogue for the last 45 years.

The fellowship offers Rs 50,000 a month for two years to 60 youths to be selected through interviews by a panel of experts. The fellowship can be extended by one year if the results are encouraging. After undergoing a 2-month crash course in governance, the selected fellows would be deployed in the field by March or April.

The idea is to send the committed young people to

rural areas to work with the people for better implementation of government programmes. The applicants will have to demonstrate their interest in rural development, poverty eradication, health deficit and giving a helping hand to the administration to gain people's confidence.

Though Jairam does not admit, his hidden agenda is to build up a new breed of leaders who are motivated

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