

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AYUSH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9th February 2024
"Criteria for SPARK"

1165. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:
SHRI DIPSINH SHANKARSINH RATHOD:

Will the Minister of **AYUSH** be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria/qualifications considered in the selection process for students participating in the Studentship Programme for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK);
- (b) whether the programme ensures inclusivity and diversity; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF AYUSH
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) Ayurveda undergraduates studying in Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) course (from 1st year to 4th year before appearing in 4th year final exams) can only participate in the Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK). Indian National students who are studying in recognized Ayurvedic medical colleges of India can only apply. NRIs & Students from foreign institutes are not eligible for this program.

Only those proposals will be considered for further evaluation which are recommended by the College Screening Committee and endorsed from the Head of Institute (Principal) after duly abiding by the 10% annual Undergraduate (UG) sanctioned strength clause for e.g., if a college has 100 UG seats annual intake, the college can send only 10 proposals for SPARK 2023-2024.

Selection of the candidates for award of research studentship is done on the basis of two criteria, first on the total marks index (30%) in the previous year exam or in 10+2 in case of 1st year student and second (70%) after technical evaluation of the research plan on merits, novelty and translational value by a panel of experts.

(b) The SPARK programme is open to B.A.M.S. students studying in Ayurveda colleges recognized by National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) across the country. The main objective of this program is to provide an opportunity to undergraduate Ayurveda students to familiarize themselves with Research Methodology and techniques by being associated for a short duration by undertaking independent projects.

In the 2022-23 batch total 778 proposals were received from which 100 proposals were selected and 95 candidates were awarded studentship on submission of final report. The selected proposals are from diverse research areas such as Clinical research, Fundamental

Contn.2

research, Literary research, Pharmaceutical research/Drug standardization/Techno innovation, Pharmacological, etc.

For the year 2023-2024, Ministry of Ayush has increased the annual intake from 100 to 200 in the Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK). For the year 2023-24, total 615 proposals were received on the online web portal from which 200 proposals were selected.

(c) Details at **Annexure – I**

ANNEXURE-I**SUMMARY OF STATE & RESEARCH AREA WISE SELECTED SPARK
PROPOSALS 2022-23 (100)**

SL. NO.	STATE	NO. OF COLLEGES	RESEARCH AREA					NO. OF PROPOSALS
			Clinical Research	Fundamental Research	Literary Research	Pharmaceutical research / Drug Standardization / Techno innovation	Pharmaceutical	
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	01	01	0	0	0	0	01
2.	CHATTISGARH	01	02	0	0	0	0	02
3.	GUJARAT	06	07	0	01	01	0	09
4.	HARYANA	03	0	03	0	0	0	03
5.	KARNATAKA	14	08	04	03	14	05	34
6.	KERALA	07	06	02	01	04	0	13
7.	MADHYA PRADESH	04	01	03	0	0	01	05
8.	MAHARASHTRA	06	03	01	02	07	0	13
9.	MEGHALAYA	01	01	0	0	0	0	01
10.	NEW DELHI	01	0	01	01	0	0	02
11.	ODISHA	02	0	01	0	01	0	02
12.	PUDUCHERRY	01	0	0	0	01	0	01
13.	PUNJAB	02	0	0	01	0	01	02
14.	RAJASTHAN	01	0	02	02	01	0	05
15.	TAMIL NADU	01	01	0	0	0	0	01
16.	TELENGANA	01	01	0	0	0	0	01
17.	UTTAR PRADESH	02	01	01	01	0	0	03
18.	UTTARAKHAND	01	0	0	0	0	01	01
19.	WEST BENGAL	01	0	0	0	01	0	01
TOTAL		56	32	18	12	30	8	100