

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
INSPIRE SCHEME
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired (INSPIRE) programme in some States including Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated and spent on the programme during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the number of students benefited as a result thereof; and
- (e) the parameters adopted in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The Government of India has launched a new scheme in December 2008 titled "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" to attract talented youth to study and pursue careers with science. Since then, the Scheme is in operation in most States and Union Territories (UTs), including Andhra Pradesh. The main components of the INSPIRE are : a) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS) providing INSPIRE Award of Rs 5000 for a total of ten lakh young learners of the age group of 10-15 years once in their school career during the current Plan Period and mentorship through global science leaders including Nobel Laureates and Indian leaders in science at a science camp for the top 1% performers in the Class X examination every year for a period of five years; b) Scholarships for Higher Education (SHE) for the students in the age group of 17-22 years @ Rs 80,000/- per year for continuing science education at B.Sc and M.Sc. levels and c) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) for young researchers in the age group of 22-32 years for 5 years to pursue doctoral research in science backed by an assured career opportunity scheme for another period of five years on completion of their Ph D.

(c) While the funds in the INSPIRE Scheme are not allocated state-wise, the award/ scholarship/fellowship is directly provided to students in all components of the Scheme. A statement showing the funds allocated and spent on the programme since the inception of the Scheme is given in Annexure-1

(d) The number of students benefited from the INSPIRE scheme is given in Annexure - 2. Apart from this, more than 150 Science Camps covering about 45,000 students of Class XI standard have been organized till now in various parts of the country to provide an opportunity to select school students for interaction with national and international mentors.

(e) The broad parameters adopted in all the INSPIRE components are to provide awards/scholarship/ fellowship to students at various levels of study utilizing the existing examination methods as the selection process with innovative and transparent criteria. While students of Class VI to Class X of every school in the country are eligible to receive INSPIRE Award and the selections are to be made on merit by the Principals/Headmasters/ Headmistresses, the science camps is participated by students who are top 1% performer in their Class X Board examinations. The INSPIRE Scholarship is provided to students who are common top 1% both in Class X and Class XII Board examinations and pursuing basic and natural sciences at graduation level. While the INSPIRE Fellowship for pursuing PhD is provided to 1st Rank holder in the university level examinations in post-graduate courses for any branch of science, engineering, medicine and agriculture, the INSPIRE post-doctoral program is provided on competitive research basis.