

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:494
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011
DECLINE IN NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the scientists of top research centres of the country are joining lucrative posts in the private sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the decline in the number of scientists?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government is aware of a few cases of migration of scientists from research institutions of the country to private sector. The extent of migration in terms of number of scientists is insignificant and is due primarily to attractive pay packages and other socio-economic reasons.

(c) Government have taken a number of steps to provide better scientific environment to retain scientists in these institutions and stop the exodus of talent from the public sector to the private sector. The Plan Allocation of scientific departments has been enhanced significantly. Some of the enabling mechanisms put in place by the Government to check migration of scientists to the private sector include: sharing with scientists proceeds from sponsored projects, consultancy projects and premia and royalty received from the industry; mobility of scientists between national labs, academia and industry; `knowledge alliance` with private industry to pursue product driven Research and Development and establishment of incubation centres to nurture start-up companies and enable chances of commercialization; investment of knowledgebase as equity in enterprises; and growth related incentives. Tata Innovation fellowships have been instituted for providing additional financial incentives to outstanding scientists. A Bill for Intellectual Property Management in public funded projects has been formulated to ensure that innovators share royalties from technology transfer and commercialization. In addition, the Government has also taken several steps to attract scientists from other sectors. A major programme in collaboration with WELCOME Trust, U.K. at a total cost of Rs.1300 crores shared equally with DBT has been launched to attract scientists from abroad in biomedical sciences, for joining Indian universities/institutions. The setting up of Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research (IISERs), Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB); institution of prestigious fellowships like Swarnajayanti Fellowship for outstanding young scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Ramanujan and Ramalingaswami Fellowships to attract outstanding Indian scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country, J.C Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists and engineers are some of the schemes implemented in this direction.