

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2504

ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012

DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH WORK

Kashyap Shri Virender;Naqvi Shri Zafar Ali;Pandey Saroj;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is lack of research and development work in universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to develop Universities as research centres;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the number of science and research institutions and to update the syllabus and make them attractive so that attention of the students can be drawn to this field; and
- (f) if so, the time by which these institutions are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However there is still some scope for improving research and development work in universities in the country. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to encourage research in various fields. Approximately 8525 students are awarded M.Phil. degrees and 10,781 students are awarded Ph.D degrees in various disciplines every year. University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that it is implementing several schemes for promotion of research and development in universities, which include Major and Minor Research Projects, Emeritus Fellowships, Junior Research Fellowships (JRF), Senior Research Fellowships (SRF), Research Associateship, Research Scientists scheme, Post Graduate scholarships to Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineers (GATE) qualified students, Dr. D.S Kothari Post-doctoral Fellowships, Research Fellowships in Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences, Dr. Radhkrishnan Post-doctoral Fellowships etc. Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Bio-Technology (DBT), Centre of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR), Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) etc are funding research projects in various areas and disciplines.

(c) to (f): UGC has reported that the main area of focus in the universities and colleges would be to promote basic scientific research. The recommendations of Task Force Basic Scientific Research in Universities are being implemented. The schemes of University with Potential for Excellence (UPE), Centre with Potential for Excellence in a Particular Area (CPEPA) and College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) are being implemented to promote Research and Development. The UGC has introduced a new scheme called the "Establishment of new Centres/Institutes of excellence" in studies. The UGC also runs the Special Assistance Programmes by providing financial assistance to university departments besides supporting science research projects and fellowships. The scheme of Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology (ASIST) will also be expanded for creating S&T infrastructure in higher education.

In order to promote scientific research, the areas of research are being constantly expanded. Some of these are Human Genome, Bio-medical Magnetic Resonance, Applied Human Genetics, International Security and Defence Analysis. Other thrust areas include Medical Agriculture, Marine Biotechnology, Veterinary sciences, Food and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, Molecular and Human Genetics, Neurosciences, Plasma Physics, Nuclear Physics, Structural Biology, Neurosciences, Organic Synthesis, Robotics, Nano-technology, Nano-sciences etc. Syllabus revision and updation is a continuous and ongoing process.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has reported that the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology is awarded annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering, mathematics, medicine and Physics. The Department of Science & Technology (DST) runs schemes like the Funds for Infrastructure for Science & Technology in University and Academic Sector (FIST), Intensification of research in High Priority Areas (IRPHA), Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence (CURIE), fellowships under Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) and schemes under Science and Engineering Research Board. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has reported that it implements schemes like Postgraduate teaching programmes in 72 universities, Biotech Industrial Training programme, Junior Fellowship programme and Research Associateship programme.