

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4370
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
INDIAN SCIENTISTS WORKING ABROAD
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has drawn any plan to attract and bring back Indian scientists working abroad to pursue scientific research in the country in their respective field of work;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken so far in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing six initiatives to attract and bring back Indian scientists working abroad to pursue scientific research in India in their respective field of work as well in home.

country research programs. The details are as follows:

Department of Science and Technology (DST) initiatives

(i) Ramanujan Fellowship Program

Since inception, 184 Indian origin scientist/engineers working abroad have been offered this fellowship to take up research position at scientific institutions and universities in India. Each fellowship is for five years duration with monthly emoluments Rs. 75,000 and an annual contingent grant of Rs. 5 lakh.

(ii) Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC) under INSPIRE Faculty Scheme

Since 2011, total of 175 young scientists have been provided INSPIRE Faculty Award and among them 33 are scientists of India. INSPIRE Faculty Award Scheme provides contractual assignment for carrying out research in Indian reputed institution/universities of their choice for a period upto 5 years. The selected candidates receive consolidated emolument equivalent to scale of Assistant Professor of an IIT and assured annual research grant of Rs. 7 lakhs. The Scheme has gained enthusiastic enrollment of scientists of Indian origin.

(iii) Collaborative Projects with Scientist and Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad (CP-STIO)

Since inception, 37 collaborative projects involving STIOs have been implemented with financial support jointly by DST and Indian host institution. DST covers return airfare and honorarium for 2 to 12 week @ of USD 2000 for two weeks and USD 500 for every additional fortnight. It has attracted more than 50 visits of Indian Origin scientist abroad to Indian R&D laboratories.

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) initiatives

(iv) "Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship"

Since inception, 147 Indian scientists working abroad have been selected for Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship in the area of biotechnology and life sciences to pursue their research interest at Indian scientific institution/universities for up to 5 year. The fellowship awardees receive monthly emolument of Rs. 75, 000 and House Rent Allowance of Rs 7500/month along with annual research/contingent grant in the 5-10 lakhs.

(v) Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Welcome Trust (WT) Alliance

This is four tier fellowship program offered to scientist of Indian origin working abroad to return to India. The fellowship is given the area of biomedical research at post doctoral level. This fellowship program is jointly funded by DBT and Welcome Trust, UK. Since inception, 78 fellowships have been recommended for award (22 Early Career Fellowship @ Rs. 1.5 Crore for 4 years, 41 Intermediate Fellowship @ Rs.3.5 Crore for 5 years and 15 Senior Fellowship@ Rs. 4.5 Crore for 5 years).

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

(vi) Outstanding Scientists- STIO

This is a recent initiative wherein Scientists/Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad are being offered appointment as "Outstanding Scientists" at CSIR laboratories to nurture a research field in their area of expertise.