

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:147

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013

SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of qualified scientists for undertaking research and development work in various research institutions/laboratories in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether a number of scientists in various research institutions/ laboratories under the Government have resigned to join more remunerative positions in the private sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the number of scientists who have resigned to join private sector during the last three years and the current year, year and institution-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to retain such scientists in their institutions and to prevent their migration?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 147 FOR 07.03.2013 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS

(a) & (b) No Madam. There is no shortage of qualified scientists for research and development in various research institutions/laboratories under various departments of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

(c) to (e) It has been observed that number of scientists who have left or leaving are not so many as to ever cause a concern. As a result, such specific information has not been maintained and therefore, no specific steps have been contemplated to counter such a process. Besides, it may be noted that following the revision of salaries and promotional avenues of scientists in the 6th Pay Commission, the research positions in public sector institutions have gained further attractiveness. This is evident from the 29% increase in extramural R&D Projects in the country from 3,336 in 2006-07 to 4,304 in 2009-10. The monthly emoluments of fellowships for research fellows have been increased by 100% from Rs.8,000 per month in 2007 to Rs.16,000 per month in 2010. The number of doctoral degrees awarded has also increased by 17% from 6,086 in 2006-07 to 7,113 in 2008-09. Further, 184 scientists of Indian origin working abroad have been offered Ramanujan Fellowship for undertaking research in the country. Under the INSPIRE Faculty Award Scheme, 33 Scientists of Indian origin including NRIs having Ph.D. degrees have joined Indian Scientific Institutions. In view of the rising demand of research professionals, the absorption capacity has been increased with the setting up of new institutes such as Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (ISERs) followed by successive increase in plan allocations for scientific departments etc.