

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:470

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

FUNDING FROM AISRF

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether Australia has announced a \$10 million grant in funding from the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) for collaborative research projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of higher educational institutions that will be benefited therefrom;
- (d) whether Australia has agreed to send students to India for a study experience under the new Asia Bound program and if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) whether the two countries have also agreed to set up a new Australia-India Knowledge Partnership Grants under the AIEC to fund the projects and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a) Yes Madam, The Government of Australia announced a \$10 million additional grant under the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) for collaborative research projects by researchers from Australia and India. The announcement was made during the bilateral meeting between the Minister of Human Resource Development and the Minister of Human Resource Development and the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Higher Education, Australia on 12th July, 2013 at Sydney.
- (b) The AISRF helps Australian researchers to participate in cutting edge scientific projects and workshops with Indian scientists. It supports the development of strategic alliances between Australian and Indian researchers. It is Australia's largest fund dedicated to bilateral research with any country. The Fund has four components, viz., Science and Technology Fund; Biotechnology Fund; Grand Challenge Fund and Fellowship Fund. AISRF was announced in 2006 with a commitment of \$ 20 million from Australian government with Government of India committing to meet the costs of the participation of the Indian researchers supported through AISRF. In 2009, this scheme received additional funding of \$ 50 million from the Australian government with Indian Government committing to meet the costs of the participation of the Indian researchers under AISRF for the period ending 2016. The AISRF has supported over 100 joint projects and workshops, Grand Challenge projects in food security, health and energy, and over 80 fellowships for Australian and Indian researchers.
- (c) The fund is meant for individual level collaborative research in which academic institutions, universities and national R&D laboratories from India are participating and there is no cap on the number of Institutions.
- (d) Under the new Asia Bound program, Australia has announced support to 29 higher education institutions to send 300 students to India for a study experience during 2013-14.
- (e) During the meeting of the Australia India Education Council (AIEC) held at Sydney on 12th July, 2013, the two countries have also announced a new initiative "Australia India Knowledge Partnership Grants", to fund projects in thematic priority areas in higher education.