

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:153

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014

SOFT LOAN FOR R D

Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Patel Smt. Jayshreeben

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

(a) whether the Government has taken adequate measures to promote scientific research by the Indian Scientists, especially the youth and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provides soft loan for research and development activities under various schemes and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the soft loan provided during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise?

Answer

MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER FOR EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.153 FOR 03/12/2014 REGARDING 'SOFT LOAN FOR R&D'

(a) Yes, Madam. The Government has taken several measures to promote scientific research by the Indian Scientists, especially the youth in the country. These measures include successive increase in plan allocations for Scientific Departments / Agencies, induction of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for R&D, launching mission mode programmes etc. Schemes / Programmes like Swarnajayanti Fellowship of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Fast Track Young Scientist Scheme of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Young Biotechnology Award and Rapid Grant for Young Investigators of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Encouraging and Motivating Pursuit of World Class Exploratory Research (EMPOWER) and Young Scientist Project Award of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are targeted schemes for young scientists to elevate the scientific research in the country. The Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) of DST is a planned program to attract talented youth to study science and pursue careers in research. It engages talented youth of the country in the age groups of 10 to 32 with the objective to promoting a science aware citizenry through an Award scheme, Scholarship scheme, Fellowship scheme and INSPIRE faculty scheme for providing opportunities /careers in research. Recently, the fellowships of Junior/Senior Research Fellows (JRF/SRF) and Research Associates (RA) have been enhanced substantially to the tune of 55 - 67% to attract more students to enroll themselves into research career.

(b)& (c): CSIR provides soft loan for R&D activities to companies under the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Scheme. The programme enables Indian industries to attain global leadership position in select areas like affordable health care, sustainable energy, smart and functional materials, next generation automobiles, intelligent building technologies, micro machines etc. The amount of loan provided during each of the last three years and the current year under NMITLI is given as under:

Financial Year	Amount of Loan (Rs. in crores)
2011-12	30.474
2012-13	20.096
2013-14	15.482
2014-15 (till date)	6.849