

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:502
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2015
PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
Meena Shri Harish Chandra

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

- (a) the details of schemes under implementation by the Government/University Grants Commission (UGC) to promote excellence in scientific research in universities and colleges and the activities undertaken therein;
- (b) the funds allocated and released under these schemes during each of the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the syllabus/curriculum contents provide adequate scope for research based activities/projects to be undertaken by the students; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government/UGC in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 502 FOR 29.04.2015 ASKED BY SHRI HARISH MEENA, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

(a): The University Grants Commission(UGC) has informed that it is implementing the following schemes, namely: Basic Scientific Research; Universities with Potential for Excellence; Centres with Potential for Excellence in Particular Areas (CPEPA); Special Assistance Programme (SAP); Research Projects; and Junior Research Fellowships, Non- National Eligibility Test (NET) Fellowships etc. for promoting excellence in scientific research in universities and colleges and the activities undertaken therein.

Under the scheme of Basic Scientific Research, infrastructure development grants have been given to eligible universities and colleges, including Autonomous Colleges, Colleges with Potential for Excellence, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited Colleges and University Science Departments for development of infrastructure, one-time grant/ start-up grant to faculty for augmenting research facilities, Dr. D.S.Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowships for Science and Engineering & Technology, Faculty Fellowships, Research Fellowships in sciences to meritorious students and Faculty Recharge Programme for recruitment of highly motivated faculty with flair for research in interdisciplinary/frontier areas of Science for placement in Indian Universities.

The grants provided under the Special Assistance Programme(SAP) of the UGC aim to build up research infrastructure and human resources in selected University Departments. The programme/ caters to the societal needs by facilitating interaction and collaboration among universities, industry and eminent research organizations.

Under the scheme of Universities with Potential for Excellence, grants to the extent of Rs. 60.00 crores, increased to Rs. 100 crores after 5 or 10 years, are provided to eligible universities. As on date 15 universities are covered under this scheme. The grants under this scheme is to be utilized partly (50%) for research in one/ two focused area(s) and partly (50%) on holistic development of the university.

The CPEPA Scheme focuses on supporting the development of inter-and/or multi-disciplinary areas and specific research projects in these areas at the selected Centres. Presently UGC is supporting 21 Centres. The UGC target under the scheme is 50 Centres during the XII th plan.

Under the scheme of Research Projects, UGC provides financial assistance to teachers teaching in universities and colleges to promote excellence in teaching and research. Research project may be undertaken by an individual teacher or a group of teachers. Under the scheme, the ceiling of assistance for a project in Sciences including Engineering & Technology, Medical, Pharmacy, Agriculture etc. - is Rs. 20.00 lacs.

Every year 8800 JRFs and 3423 non-NET fellowships are awarded by UGC. Further, UGC provides financial assistance to selected candidates for pursuing Post graduation in general course and professional & Technical courses, M.Phil./Ph.D. research and higher research on full time/regular basis in universities/Institutions/Colleges in India under various schemes. The UGC has also launched C. V. Raman post doctoral fellowship under which 300 awards are given annually to young Indian scholars to provide them international collaborative research opportunities, training in advanced techniques and technologies in emerging fields thereby enabling them to forge long-term relationship with distinguished experts in these fields in USA.

The guidelines of the above-mentioned UGC schemes are available at www.ugc.ac.in.

The Department of Science and Technology(DST) is also implementing the schemes of Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and other Higher Educational Institutions (FIST), Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research(INSPIRE) and Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF) for promotion

of scientific research in academic institutions in the country. These schemes provide equipment & infrastructure improvement grants to Universities & PG Colleges; grants for publications in Science Citation Indexed Journals; scholarships at Bachelor's and Master's levels education in natural sciences; and grants for making available sophisticated analytical instruments, centrally, to researchers.

(b): The funds allocated under each of these schemes, during each of the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise is given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Universities are autonomous bodies which formulate and implement curricula with the approval of its internal statutory bodies like Board of Studies and Academic councils. However, UGC on its part has prepared model curricula from time to time for various courses taught in institutions of higher education in India. These curricula are finalized after inviting and incorporating inputs from various stakeholders which include teachers, students, parents and general public at large so as to make them inclusive and wide-ranging.