

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS
Nimmala Shri Kristappa

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 each of 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 STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(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): The exodus of scientists has not been sizeable and is therefore not a matter of concern. As such no statistics have been maintained to allow for specific steps to be taken to prevent their migration. Besides the research positions in public institutions have gained further attractiveness following the revision of salaries and promotional avenues of scientists in the 6th Pay Commission. This is evident from the 75% increase in extramural Research and Development (R&D) Projects in the country from 3,336 in 2006-07 to 5,855 in 2010-11. The monthly emoluments of fellowships for research fellows have increased by 100% from Rs.8,000 per month in 2007 to Rs.16,000 per month in 2010. Further, since 2006 onwards, 570 scientists of Indian origin working abroad, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) having Ph.D. degrees, have been offered to join Indian scientific institutions under schemes such as Ramanujan Fellowship, (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Award and Ramalingaswami Fellowships for undertaking research in the country. In view of the demand of research professionals coming up, the absorption capacity has been increased manifold with the setting up of new institutes such as Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) followed by successive increase in plan allocations for scientific departments etc.