

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5105
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
PROGRAMMES FOR SC ST STUDENTS YOUTHS
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any programmes for improving the skills and capacities of SC/ST students and also unemployed youths to facilitate their entry into the areas of higher research and Institutions of national importance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with their outcome, State-wise;
- (c) whether any programmes are being undertaken by the Ministry to improve the representation of SC/ST candidates in the institutions where there is no representation or minimal representation;
- (d) whether students belonging to all the categories are admitted in Institutes/ Research Laboratories each year as per the reservation policy of the Central Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, Institute/Research laboratory-wise?

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) to (e): The Ministry of Science and Technology has no specific programmes for improving the skills and capacities of SC/ST students and unemployed youth to facilitate their entry into the areas of higher research and institutions of national importance. However, the Ministry is implementing several programmes like Empowerment and Equity Opportunities for Excellence in Science (E2OES), Biotechnology based Programme for SC/ST etc. for enhancing the research capabilities of SC/ST researchers. Significant research support is provided to Young researchers including researchers belonging to SC/ST community through various Young Scientist Schemes of the Ministry. Under the E2OES scheme, about 350 researchers belonging to SC/ST community has been supported with a research grant of Rs. 47.1 Crores in the last two years. These programmes are centrally sponsored and are awarded to the scientists working in academic institutions / national laboratories spread across the country.

SC/ST research students admitted through National Eligibility Test are given special provisions such as relaxation in upper age limit, application fee and qualifying marks for undertaking higher research in institutions of their choice. The admission of SC/ST candidates for regular positions in institutes/ research laboratories are as per the reservation policy of the Central Government. The propitious policy of the Government has led the enhancement of research fellowship to SC/ST candidates to about 139% from 2005 to 2012. State-wise enrollment of SC/ST research scholars by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is annexed.