

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1775

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014

BRAIN DRAIN

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

(a) whether as per the latest ASSOCHAM report a large number of Indian students move to foreign universities and cost India whopping Rs. 95000 crores per year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to amend the Indian Institutes of Technology's law to stop brain drain of their students and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to introduce new schemes that would aim at keeping the best brains in the country and the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): According to information provided by ASSOCHAM based on a paper, a large number of students take admissions in the foreign universities, which costs India Rs. 95,000 crores per year. The report noted that students go abroad despite high fees paid by them in Universities abroad vis-à-vis those in India. The report further stated that the major destinations for Indians in the European Union in the beginning of the century were limited to UK, Germany, Italy, Austria and Spain; but, now, more and more Indians are immigrating to the countries like Poland, France, Ireland and Sweden. According to the ASSOCHAM report, more and more quality educational institutions should be set up in India on the lines of IIT and IIM in order to restrict the outgo of students.

(c) : Presently, there is no proposal for amendment of the Institutes of Technology, Act, 1961.

(d) : The Government has decided to set up 5 new IITs & 6 IIMs with a view to increase the number of seats available for bright students to seek admission to premier institutions in the country.

The Government has also taken several steps to encourage reverse brain drain of scientists from abroad. Ramanujan Fellowship of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship of Department of Biotechnology (DST) are targeted schemes aimed at attracting highly skilled researchers (Indian nationals) working overseas by providing them attractive avenue to pursue their R&D interests in Indian institutions. Under the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of DST, young Indian citizens and people of Indian origin including NR/PIO status with Ph.D (in science, mathematics, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, and agriculture related subjects) from any recognized university in the world are offered contractual research positions in Indian Institution/Universities to carry out independent research and emerge as leader in science & technology.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has a scheme to attract Scientists / Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) under which they are appointed at an identified CSIR laboratory so as to nurture a research field in their area of expertise.

The Government has several other programmes including JC Bose Fellowship, Swarnajayanti Fellowship, Young Scientist Project Award, Women scientist Scheme, National Women Bio-scientists Award etc., which have been designed to encourage individual scientists to do quality research. CSIR provides performance linked incentives to the awardees of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize. Some other incentive policies are: Sharing of proceeds with scientists from contractual R&D; and consultancy and premia & royalty received from the transfer of technology.

Recently, the fellowships of Junior / Senior Research Fellowship (JRF /SRF) and Research Association (RA) have been enhanced to the tune of 55-67% to attract more students to enroll themselves into research career.