

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:249  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2014  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES  
Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Yeddyurappa Shri B. S.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that the poor quality of scientific research in Indian Universities is downgrading their over all ranking world over;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilised during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to upgrade and improve the standards of scientific research in Indian Universities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 249 FOR 10.12.2014 ASKED BY SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE & SHRIANANDRAO ADSUL, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

(a) & (b): While none of the Indian Universities figure in the top 200 higher educational institutions in the world, as per some global ranking systems, such as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014-15 and the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, some Universities have started providing information about their research activities, including scientific research, to the ranking agencies, as well as started taking steps to improve scientific research being conducted by them. The international ranking systems consider achievements in scientific research in the nature of publications in reputed scientific journals, awards such as the Nobel Prize, Fields Medal etc. in the scientific field and other parameters to rank a higher educational institution. As the different international ranking systems use different values, indices and parameters to rank higher educational institutions and are not universally accepted and are always open to criticism, the Government has recently constituted a committee, under the chairmanship of Secretary Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for evolving a National Rankings Framework.

(c) to (e): Funding for quality research has been enhanced through government grants and industry- academia engagement. The University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing "Basic Scientific Research (BSR)" scheme exclusively for promoting basic scientific research in Universities and Colleges in the Country. Under this scheme, the following activities have been undertaken, namely: (i) faculty recruitment at national level of highly motivated faculty with flair for research in interdisciplinary/ frontier areas of science (ii) granting one time grant to faculty members for facilitating their research work (iii) granting post-doctoral fellowships in sciences for grooming young researchers for launching an academic/ research career (iv) granting doctoral fellowships to meritorious students to undertake advanced studies and research leading to Ph.D. degrees in sciences (v) facilitating talented teachers, at the verge of superannuation, to continue their productive research for an additional period of three years after superannuation and play a research mentorship role for young researchers and Ph.D. students (vi) granting start up grant to newly appointed teachers with minimum two research publications in approved/ cited journals (vii) providing infrastructure grants to universities and colleges to improve basic infrastructure development of science departments(viii) establishing networking resource centers for capacity building; and (ix) strengthening of infrastructure of laboratories in National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited PG colleges with minimum B grade. The UGC-BSR Empowered Committee, in order to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Basic Scientific Research, meets frequently in a year to analyse the information collected on the status of Basic Scientific Research and to undertake mid course corrections.

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.

The funds allocated and released during each of the last three years and the current year, under the UGC-BSR Schemes and the DST Schemes, for promotion of research in Universities and Colleges are at Annexure.

The UGC is also implementing the following schemes to augment quality and promote research, including scientific research, namely, University with Potential for Excellence(UPE); Centre with Potential for Excellence in Particular Area(CPEPA), Colleges with Potential for Excellence(CPE), Special Assistance Programme (SAP) etc.