

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1772
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/2/2019

PROMOTION OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS

1772. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:
SHRI L.R. SHIVARAME GOWDA:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking adequate measures to promote young scientists to pursue research programmes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the main objectives of the Start-Up Research Grant (Young Scientists) and the funds allocated therefor by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the required age group to avail benefit under this programme and the achievement made thereunder so far;
- (d) whether the Government is providing any special schemes or scholarships under this programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री, पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री और पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री

(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)

(a) Yes, Madam. Government has taken several measures to promote young scientists to pursue research programmes. The young scientists are promoted primarily through early career grants, core research grants, doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships etc. Some of the notable programmes of the Ministry targeted at young scientists include: Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), National Postdoctoral Fellowship (N-PDF), Early Career Research Award (ECRA), Research Associateship, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Fellowship Schemes etc.

(b) The Start-up Research Grant Schemes are designed to identify promising young researchers with innovative ideas and provide them with training and research opportunities in frontier areas of science and engineering. The schemes also provide them a platform to develop as independent researchers for taking up challenging research problems for the benefit of the country. The funds allocated exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 1039.6 crore, Rs. 1136.9 crore, Rs. 1122.6 crore and Rs. 1180 crore respectively.

(c) The required age groups to avail benefit from the following popular young scientist schemes are given below:

Scheme / Programme	Age group: Upper age limit of
Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST)	32 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST categories
National Postdoctoral Fellowship of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)	35 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged/ Women categories
Early Career Research Award of SERB	37 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged/ Women categories
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Fellowship Schemes	35 years
Research Associate Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	40 years and 45 years for women candidates

A number of quality publications in high impact journals and patents have emanated from the Young Scientist's projects. The schemes have helped many young researchers in the progress of their career in S&T, got appointment in academic and research institutions and received recognitions in the form of awards, membership in science and engineering academies.

(d) & (e): CSIR provides Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship to certain top ranking JRF- National Eligibility Test (NET) qualified candidates to nurture the budding scientific talent and to nourish the objective of pursuit of scientific research. Thematic Fellowship programmes in Solar Energy, Building Energy Efficiency Higher & Advanced Network and Water Research have been initiated by DST to support young faculty and research scholars for conducting research in US R&D and academic institutions.