

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.618  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6/2/2019**

**ATTRITION OF SCIENTISTS**

**618. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether attrition of scientists from research institutions and laboratories is being witnessed and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any system of holding exit interviews of scientists who indicate their willingness to quit research institutions/labs and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage reverse brain drain of scientists from abroad and if so, the extent to which such measures have been successful;
- (d) the details of the number of scientists who have been repatriated; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to assist the scientific community and motivate them to continue their research in the country?

**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) No Madam. There is no alarming situation of attrition of scientists from research institutions and laboratories of Ministry of Science and Technology.
- (b) At present there is no exit interview system in any research institutions of Government of India. Institutions have already taken care of the attrition by regularly recruiting new scientists against open advertisements.
- (c) The Government has taken several steps for promotion of science and technology and encourage reverse brain drain. The Government, through the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2013 has focused to make careers in science, research and innovation attractive enough for talent and bright minds. The competitive extramural funding schemes of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Young Scientist Project Award, Women Scientist Scheme, National Women Bio-scientists Awards, J. C. Bose Fellowship, Swarnajayanti Fellowship etc. have been designed to encourage individual scientists to do quality research in the country. Ramanujan Fellowship, Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship, Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme are some of the programs to attract Indian scientists from abroad as well as to retain them in the country.
- (d) Ministry does not maintain any data related to repatriation of scientists. However as on date, 336 and 351 fellows have taken up positions in various Indian Laboratories under Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship and Ramanujan Fellowship respectively.
- (e) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has taken up various steps to motivate the scientific community to continue their research in the country by sharing the financial resources with scientists from sponsored projects, consultancy projects, technical service projects including royalty received from licensing of knowledge base to the industry; allowing mobility of scientists between CSIR, academia and industry; facilitating researchers to become members on the Board of Directors of Private sector companies and also allowing scientists to have an equity stake in scientific enterprises/ spin offs while in professional employment with their research and academic organizations.

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