GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4242
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2019

WRITING SKILLS

4242.   SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

(a)   the details of progress made with regard to Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR) Initiative;

(b)   the total number of newspaper articles, magazines and blogs published under the same; and

(c)   the total number of scholars engaged therefor, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR HARSH VARDHAN)
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री; विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री
डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन

(a)   Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR) is an initiative that aims to disseminate Indian research stories among the masses in a form that is easy to understand and interesting for a common man. Under this initiative, PhD Scholars and Post-Doctoral Fellows (PDFs) in Science &Technology (S&T) streams are encouraged to write at least one popular science article during the tenancy of their research, and to participate in a national competition. Best 100 entries in PhD category and 20 entries in PDF category are awarded prize of Rs. 10,000/- along with Certificate of Appreciation. Top three leading stories under PhD category are awarded with the cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-, Rs.50,000/- and Rs.25,000/- respectively. One outstanding story under PDF category is awarded a prize of Rs.1,00,000/-.

   The programme was launched on 24 January, 2018. Since then a dedicated website on AWSAR (www.awsar-dst.in) has been launched that covers various aspects such as timeline for submitting popular science story, eligibility, award categories, advertisements, sample research stories, details of workshops, etc. An encouraging response has been received from the scholars. Till March, 2019, AWSAR website visitor count was more than 2 lakhs. A total of 2,629 stories were received under '*Call for Entries 2018*' in both PhD and PDF categories. These stories were evaluated and best 124 stories were selected and awarded on National Science Day, held on 28 February, 2019.

(b)   Several articles, blogs, facebook posts, social media posts were published in leading newspapers, science magazines, brochures, flyers and social media platform, on AWSAR programme including those for its promotion. The details are given below:-

AWSAR on online blogs	12
Facebook post	27
LinkedIn	28
Twitter	29
AWSAR in Print Media	6

(c)   As part of capacity-building, four workshops were conducted in 2018 at Dehradun, Kolkata, Chennai, and Chandigarh with 511 participants. The distribution of scholars engaged from various States/UT during workshops is given as under: -

State	Numbers of Participants
Uttar Pradesh	5
Delhi	9
West Bengal	109
Tamil Nadu	101
Uttarakhand	99
Odisha	3
Telangana	4
Chandigarh	130
Punjab	33
Andhra Pradesh	2
Karnataka	2
Maharashtra	1
Himachal Pradesh	2
Haryana	3
Rajasthan	6
Jammu & Kashmir	2

As many as 2,629 stories were received under PhD and PDF categories. The State wise distribution of stories received under AWSAR programme is given below:-

S. No.	State	Stories received	
		Post Doctoral Category	Ph.D
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
3.	Assam	16	61
4.	Bihar	2	12
5.	Chandigarh	8	55
6.	Chattisgarh	0	7
7.	Delhi	72	190
8.	Goa	2	17
9.	Gujarat	8	87
10.	Haryana	14	40
11.	Himachal Pradesh	5	26
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	19
13.	Jharkhand	4	26
14.	Karnataka	53	225
15.	Kerala	14	52
16.	Madhya Pradesh	8	56
17.	Maharashtra	47	258
18.	Manipur	1	2
19.	Meghalaya	3	4
20.	Mizoram	1	3
21.	Odisha	15	51
22.	Puducherry	2	9
23.	Punjab	11	75
24.	Rajasthan	6	45
25.	Sikkim	0	3
26.	Tamil Nadu	49	290
27.	Telangana	22	74
28.	Tripura	1	1
29.	Uttar Pradesh	42	166
30.	Uttarakhand	8	85
31.	West Bengal	31	171
Total		455	2174

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