

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.96**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/03/2017

**ENCOURAGING YOUNG SCIENTISTS TO TAKE UP RESEARCH WORK**

\*96. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking due measures to encourage young scientists to take up research work;
- (b) the main characteristics of Young Scientist Research Programme together with the details of funds allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) what is the age eligibility for obtaining benefits of this programme and the details of achievements made under this programme, so far;
- (d) whether Government is offering any special plan or scholarships under this programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

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

**STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.96 FOR 09/03/2017 REGARDING ENCOURAGING YOUNG SCIENTISTS TO TAKE UP RESEARCH WORK**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has instituted several schemes/programmes aimed at enhancing the research capabilities of young scientists and provide a platform to develop as independent researchers; and thereby elevating the S&T landscape of the country. The schemes are designed to identify promising young researchers with innovative ideas and provide them with training and research opportunities in niche areas of basic science and engineering. Ease of funding, speed of delivery, attractive fellowships etc. are some of the characteristics of the young scientist research programmes. The funds allocated exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 726.6 crore, Rs. 803.2 crore, Rs. 987.9 crore and Rs. 1135.1 crore respectively.

(c) The required age groups for obtaining 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
Rapid Grant for Young Investigators Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	40 years

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) Yes, Sir.

(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, Bioenergy 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.

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