

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2684
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/3/2018

SCHEME FOR ENCOURAGING YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN RURAL AREAS

†2684. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) whether schemes are conducted by Government to provide the special facilities and resources related to research and development at local level for the talented young scientists in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred thereon during last three years and the details of achievements thereon;
- (c) whether any new scheme has been launched recently to identify the talented young scientists in rural areas and to provide them scholarship; and
- (d) if so, State-wise number of young scientists identified so far under this scheme?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Department of Science and Technology (DST), under the Scheme for Young Scientists and Technologists (SYST), nurtures young scientists and technologists to take up Science & Technology (S&T) based projects of societal relevance with lab-to-land approach from across the country including rural areas. Young researchers from rural areas can align themselves with academic institutes, Research and Development (R&D) laboratories or S&T driven Voluntary organizations for addressing local challenges. The young scientists and technologists then make concerted efforts to address these challenges through S&T interventions and adaptive R&D. Number of projects supported and funds allocated under the SYST scheme in last three years as well as the current year and achievements made are given in Table below. The candidate applying for SYST should be less than 35 years of age on the last date of submission of the application. However, age relaxation of 5 years is given to women and differently-abled (*Divyangjan*) applicants and also to those belonging to SC, ST and OBC category. The beneficiaries are given budgetary support up to Rs.40 lakhs in project mode for up to 3 years. The grant includes monthly emoluments to the young scientist, amounting to Rs.30,000/- to those having M.Sc./B.Tech/MBBS or equivalent degree; Rs.40,000/- to those having M.Tech/M.Pharm/M.V.Sc. or equivalent degree and Rs.55,000/- to those having PhD or equivalent. The scheme also supports young researchers from across the country including rural areas who are employed in R&D Institutions, Universities and Colleges but meet the other essential criteria, with a budgetary support up to Rs.30 lakhs.

Year	No of projects funded	Funds allocated, Rupees in lakhs
2014-15	3	19.98
2015-16	25	163.48
2016-17	26	170.06
2017-18	38	451.96

There is no new scheme to identify young scientists particularly in rural areas and to provide them with scholarships. Though SYST was initiated in 1992, but it was revived, rejuvenated and revitalized in the year 2015 to expand its outreach further.

(d) State-wise number of young scientists identified and supported under SYST is given in the Annexure.

Annexure

Statewise number of young scientists identified and supported under SYST Scheme

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Projects supported
1.	Kerala	3
2.	Tamilnadu	10
3.	Delhi	6
4.	Odisha	3
5.	Assam	5
6.	West Bengal	3
7.	Gujarat	2
8.	Rajasthan	1
9.	Karnataka	4
10.	Uttarakhand	1
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1
12.	Nagaland	1
13.	Jharkhand	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1
16.	Panjab	3
17.	Andhra Pradesh	1
18.	Chandigarh	1
19.	Maharashtra	2
20.	Manipur	3
21.	Haryana	1
