

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3960
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2/4/2018

MEASURES TO REDUCE BRAIN DRAIN

3960. DR. V. MAITREYAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken serious note of the 'Brain-Drain' issue affecting the developments in Science and Technology;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction and stand on this issue;
- (c) steps taken by Government to encourage the young scientists and retain the scientific community in the country;
- (d) whether it is a fact that scientists who studied and qualified from our premier institutions like IITs etc., prefer to take up jobs in various foreign tourism countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard to reduce 'Brain Drain' in scientific community?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): No significant brain drain which is to the extent of affecting the developments in Science and Technology has been observed by the Union Government. Government is keen to bring back overseas scientists of Indian origin to our country. Attractive schemes like Ramanujan Fellowship Scheme and the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) etc. have been instituted for this purpose.

(c) Government has taken several measures to encourage the young scientists and retain the scientific community in the country. The extramural funding schemes of DST and DBT and Fellowship schemes of DST, DBT and Council Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have been designed to encourage individual scientists to do quality research. Schemes / Programmes such as Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructures in universities and higher educational institutions (FIST) to build research infrastructure for enhancing research capabilities, Core Research Grant, Research fellowships such as JC Bose and Swarnajayanti are targeted at scientific community to continue global level research in the country. Special attention has been given to young scientists for making them independent and motivate them to remain in the country through schemes like Early Career Research Award, National Postdoctoral Fellowship etc.

(d) & (e): Government is aware of the fact that a few number of scientists studied and qualified from our premier institutions like IITs prefer to take up jobs in various foreign countries due to socio-economic and personal reasons. Several steps have been taken by the Government to arrest the brain drain. The recently approved Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) offers attractive research fellowship to potential students from Indian Institute of Science/IITs/National Institute of Technology/Indian Institute of Science Education and Research /Indian Institute of Information Technology to undertake doctoral research in cutting edge science and technology domains. The Flexible Complementing Scheme / Merit based promotion scheme positioned in scientific departments and the implementation of the VII Pay Commission pay scale and introduction of Performance Related Incentive Scheme (PRIS) in strategic Departments have attracted scientists to remain in the country. In addition to incentivization schemes like sharing of proceeds with scientists from contractual R&D; and consultancy and premia & royalty received from the transfer of technology, the Government has several welfare programmes to contain brain-drain in scientific community.
