GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2603
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021

Social science research in the country

2603 Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:

Will the Minister of ***Education*** be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the efforts made by Government to empower research and development, there is no significant improvement in social science research in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures taken/being taken by Government to tackle this crisis in social science research;

(d) the fund allocated for social science research as compared to science and technology research since last 5 years; and

(e) whether Government intends to establish more social science institutions in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) to (c): The Social Science research in the country has shown significant improvement during the last 5 years. As per the international database of SCOPUS, India stands at 1st position amongst South Asian countries and at 8th rank at global level in social science research. Also, India's publications have risen from 10,500 in year 2015 to 25,811 by October 2020. Further, to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making, a Scheme 'Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)' has been launched. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also launched a scheme STRIDE (Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy), which also, inter-alia, aims to empower research and development and significant improvement in social science research in the country.

(d): Various Schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Education for promoting research in the social sciences through its research Councils like ICSSR, Delhi, ICHR, Delhi and ICPR, Delhi etc. for which Rs.1,119.31 Crore have been released during 2015-16 to 2019-20. The Ministry of Education also promotes research in the field of Science & Technology through IITs, IIITs, etc. and under various schemes like (i) National Initiative for Technology Transfer (Establishment of Research Parks), (ii) Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), (iii) Uchchatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) & (iv) Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) for which funds to the tune of Rs.266.10 Crore, Rs.219.21 Crore, Rs.150.00 Crore & Rs.23.36 Crore have been released respectively during the period 2015-16 to 2019-20.

(e): Presently, no proposal, for establishment of any new social science Institution in the country, is under consideration in the Ministry of Education.

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