

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED Q. NO. 289
ANSWERED ON 08/12/2022

PROMOTION OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS

289 # SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is taking adequate measures to promote young scientists to undertake research work in the country;
- (b) if so, the achievement made by Government in this regard along with the eligibility regarding age for getting benefits under the scheme; and
- (c) whether any special scheme or scholarship is being provided by Government under the programme and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The government has been taking adequate initiatives for promoting the young scientists to undertake research work through various schemes. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) through its National S&T Human Resource Development Group (HRDG) has been providing doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships to young budding researchers through its fellowship programmes such as Junior Research Fellowship-National Eligibility Test (JRF-NET), Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship (SPMF), Senior Research Fellowship (SRF-Direct), Research Associateships, CSIR- Nehru Science Postdoctoral research Fellowship Scheme (CSIR-NPDF) and Senior Research Associateship targeting the age group of 28-40 years. Under these programmes so far, more than 1,65,000 doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships have been awarded till 2021-22. Out of which, a total of 21,171 doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships have been awarded during last five years (since 2017-18 to 2021-22). The Science and Engineering Research Board under Department of Science and Technology has been implementing few prestigious fellowships such as National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (NPDF) with an age relaxation of five years to candidates belonging to SC, ST, OBC/ differently abled and Women applicants; Start-up Research Grant (SRG) with an upper age limit of 42 years with a relaxation of three years for SC/ST/OBC/ differently abled and women candidates; Ramanujan Fellowship for brilliant scientists and engineers from abroad below the age of 40 years; SERB Research Scientists (SRS) with an upper age limit of 40 years; SERB International Research Experience (SIRE) up to 40 years with an age relaxation of five years to candidates belonging to SC, ST OBC/ Differently abled and Women applicants; and International Travel Support (ITS) up to the age of 35 years. These schemes are all designed to offer a platform for young scientists (more than 1000) to establish themselves in a competitive research environment.

(c) Yes, Sir. The INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship of DST is one of its special kind of fellowship aimed to promote young researchers with a Ph.D. in the age group of 27-32 years for 5 years in both basic and applied science areas including engineering, medicine, agriculture and veterinary sciences. Around 700 fellowships have been offered under the programme during the last five years (2017-2021).
