

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \* 246**  
ANSWERED ON 23/03/2023

**ISSUES CONCERNING RESEARCH SCHOLARS**

\* 246. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

Will the Minister of Science and Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of requests received by Government to revise the fellowship for research scholars every four years automatically;
- (b) the reasons for no regular disbursement of fellowships by the funding agency;
- (c) the reasons for inadequate infrastructure and policy for research in the country;
- (d) the reasons for no medical facilities for researchers in every institute; and
- (e) the steps that Government is going to take to address the afore-cited issues?

**ANSWER**

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

(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. 246 FOR 23.03.2023 REGARDING “ISSUES CONCERNING  
RESEARCH SCHOLARS”**

(a) Government has received a few requests from group of research scholars and Organizations / Associations of Young Scientists / Research Scholars to revise the fellowship for research scholars. However, no request has been received for automatic revision of fellowship every four years.

(b) Departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology are regularly disbursing the fellowships on receipt of requisite documents from the concerned institutions. There has been delay in recent past in release of fellowship payment as the claim bills from host institutes and extension/ upgradation certificates have not been received in time and also the host institutions were closed due to the lockdown imposed to save the lives from Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 and 2021.

(c) Government has taken several steps for building research infrastructure in our academic and research institutions. Significant enabling policy framework has been put in place for promoting research in the country. Some of the targeted Programmes include: Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) in University departments and Higher Educational Institutions; Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) for pro-actively support for strengthening the R&D base of the performing Universities; Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF) to provide the facilities of sophisticated analytical instruments to the researchers in general and specially from the institutions which do not have access to such instruments to pursue R&D activities. These facilities provide adequate research infrastructure for researchers. The funding policy ensures support for basic equipment, optimal infrastructure facilities, ready access to information system, maintenance of equipment, networking, databases & scientific journals and also computational facilities. Autonomous institutions under the Ministry of Science and Technology with state of art infrastructure offer sophisticated research environment to carry out R & D work in frontier areas of science and engineering.

(d) As per the Government norms, the research fellows and research associates are entitled for medical allowance as applicable in the implementing institution. The Council of Scientific &

Industrial Research (CSIR) Fellows are entitled to avail the medical facilities available in the institution/university/college.

(e) In order to ensure regular disbursement of fellowships, CSIR in June-July 2021 linked the payment of fellowship to PFMS and also launched a software solution (<https://newfms.ncl.res.in>) named as NewFMS for CSIR research scholars and host institutes enabling them to submit monthly attendance reports, joining reports, completion reports etc. through the portal. CSIR JRF-NET and other exam/interview qualified research fellows are free to join any academic and R&D institute of their own choice which in their opinion and finds to have all infrastructural facilities to support the R&D. In order to further intensifying the base of S&T infrastructure and manpower, S&T led innovation and start-ups, technology development and futuristic areas of S&T, DST has established Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI). Support for Upgradation Preventive Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (SUPREME) is a new initiative for the revival of major facilities established through DST Projects. Further, the Government frequently revisits the issue of service condition including revision of emoluments of Research Fellows at regular intervals through Inter-Ministry consultation mechanisms. In the process, an Inter-Ministry meeting on fellowship had been convened recently.

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