

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 131**  
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023

**ENHANCING SCHOLARSHIPS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
UNDER KVPY**

131. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to encourage students in science and technology institutes by enhancing scholarships under various schemes, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is implementing scholarship schemes under the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) to encourage research work and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of youth encouraged and benefited under the KVPY during the last three years, State/UTs wise;
- (d) the details of funds sanctioned by Government under this yojana during the last three years; and
- (e) whether Government has achieved the objectives for which the yojana was launched?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) Yes Sir. Government is encouraging students in science and technology institutes by providing scholarships under various schemes. Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) component of “Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)” aims to enhance the rate of attachment of talented youth to undertake higher education in science intensive programs by providing scholarships and mentoring through summer attachment with leading researchers. The INSPIRE-SHE scheme offers 12,000 Scholarships every year @ ₹ 5,000 per month for undertaking Bachelor and Masters level education in natural and basic sciences for the talented youth in the age group 17-22 years. Students within top 1% cut-off marks at the Class XII Board (State or Central) examinations and pursuing science courses at undergraduate/ Integrated MSc or MS program are eligible for INSPIRE Scholarship. Applicants also receive their Scholarship for taking up undergraduate/integrated post-graduate degree courses in basic and natural sciences in various IITs, IISERs, NISERs etc. The selections are based on performance (top 1%) in Class XII examinations of State/Central School Examination Boards and/or in selected national level competitive examinations like IIT-JEE, etc. Students are also provided mentorship grant of Rs. 20,000/- per year to do research projects during summer/winter vacation period.

Department of Higher Education (DoHE) is implementing two Central Sector Scholarship Schemes under the umbrella scheme “Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana” namely (i) Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students: Scholarship is provided to students who are in top 20<sup>th</sup> percentile of successful candidates in class XII and having family income up to ₹ 4.5 lakh p.a. for pursuing higher studies to eligible meritorious students. 82,000 scholarships are available for award every year (41000 for boys and 41000 for girls). These have been divided amongst the State Education Boards based on the State's population in the age group of 18-25 years. Amount of scholarship is ₹ 12,000/- p.a. for the first three years and ₹ 20,000/- p.a. for the fourth and fifth year, (ii) Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh: The Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (SSS for J&K and Ladakh) aims at encouraging the youth from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to take advantage of the educational institutions outside these UTs, which would provide them an opportunity, to interact with their counterparts from the rest of the country, thereby helping them become a part of the mainstream. Students of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh having family income of up to ₹ 8.0 lakh p.a. and having passed Class XII/Equivalent Examination from these UTs are eligible to apply under the scheme. Students who have secured admission outside these UTs either in allotted seats through centralized counselling as well as those students who have taken admission in Central Universities or Medical/Engineering Colleges based on Government conducted National level examination are eligible for award of scholarship. 5000 scholarships are provided every year (2070 for General Degree Courses, 2830 for Professional Courses and 100 for Medical Courses). Scholarship is provided towards tuition fee and maintenance allowance. The rate of scholarship towards tuition fee for General Degree courses is ₹ 30,000 p.a., for Professional courses ₹ 1.25 lakh p.a. and for Medical studies ₹ 3.0 lakh p.a. Fixed maintenance allowance of ₹ 1.0 lakh p.a. is provided to all students under the scheme.

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is encouraging students by providing studentship under postgraduate teaching programme implemented in 70 institutions. Department is providing studentship (scholarship) to all selected students @ ₹ 5000/- p.m, for M.Sc., Biotechnology, ₹ 7500/- p.m. for M.Sc. Agriculture Biotechnology and ₹ 12000/- per month. for M.V.Sc./M.Tech Biotechnology students under these courses. DBT has implemented 70 postgraduate teaching courses in 62 universities and institutions across the country, offering general biotechnology courses and specialized courses such as medical, agricultural, marine, veterinary, industrial, food and pharmaceutical biotechnology, and human genetics. For encouraging the R&D activities, DBT is providing thesis grant of ₹ 50,000/- per student for in-house dissertation work of 6 months duration as an integral part of post graduate degree to ensure hands on training. Students are selected through the national level Graduate Aptitude Test-Biotechnology (GAT-B) examination for admission under DBT supported courses.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is implementing various scholarships schemes. (i) AICTE Post Graduate (PG) Scholarship Scheme: To ensure development of technical education in India, AICTE awards Post Graduate Scholarship to Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE)/ Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test (GPAT) / Common Entrance Examination for Design (CEED) qualified students @ ₹ 12,400/- per month through its Post Graduate (PG) Scholarship Scheme for the duration of 2 years. PG Scholarship is awarded to students admitted in Master of Engineering, Master of Technology, Master of Architecture, Master of Design and Master of Pharmacy courses in AICTE approved Institutions and AICTE approved University/Departments; (ii) AICTE Pragati Scholarship Scheme for Girl Students started in 2014 to award scholarship of upto ₹ 50,000/- per annum to meritorious girl students to encourage them to pursue higher education. Scheme offers 10,000 scholarships per annum (5000 for Diploma and 5000 for Degree) to the students admitted in AICTE approved institution and are in 1<sup>st</sup> year of Degree/ Diploma level course or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Degree/ Diploma level course through lateral entry. Maximum two girls per family and total income of the family

< ₹ 8 lakh per annum (iii) AICTE Saksham Scholarship Scheme for Differently-Abled Students started in 2014 to award scholarship of up to ₹ 50, 000/- per annum to differently abled students to encourage them to pursue higher education. Scheme offers scholarship to the Differently-Abled Students admitted in AICTE approved institution in 1<sup>st</sup> year of Degree/ Diploma level course or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Degree/ Diploma level course through lateral entry. Total income of the family < ₹ 8 lakh per annum and Disability is ≥ 40%.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi is providing scholarship to the students for joining M.Sc./M.Tech @ ₹ 12,640/- per month. The under graduate programme has been started from the academic session 2022-23 and to encourage students, it is being proposed to provide them with a fellowship @ ₹ 3,000 per month.

(b) The "Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana" (KVPY) program was incepted in 1999 by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and implemented by IISc, Bengaluru to identify students with talent and aptitude for research; help them to realize their academic potentials, encourage them to take up research careers in science and ensure the growth of best scientific minds for research and development in the country. KVPY Fellows are offered a fellowship for a maximum period of five years at any educational institution in India, provided they pursue a graduation/post-graduation course in Basic Science areas.

(c) The number of youths supported under KVPY during the last three years, State/UTs-wise is annexed.

(d) Details of funds sanctioned for KVPY, during the past three years are given below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sanctioned funds (₹ in Cr.)</b>
2019-20	17.34
2020-21	20.71
2021-22	13.45

(e) Yes Sir. Identification of talented students having aptitude for research and encouraging them by providing fellowship is a continuous process. Therefore, Government achieved the objectives for which the said yojana was launched. The applications received during the year 1999 was a meagre 1000, which was increased to about 1.56 lakh applications during the year 2020. Most of the KVPY fellows join the premier institutions in the country viz. Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) etc. Further to strengthen aim and purpose of identifying students with talent and aptitude for research, KVPY program has been subsumed in the Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) Component of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) with expansion of the scope for these aspirants to avail 12000 scholarship(s)/year for pursuing Under-Graduation (UG) and Post-Graduation (PG) in basic and natural sciences based on the INSPIRE-SHE eligibility criteria.

**ANNEXURE**

**State/UTs-wise distribution of beneficiaries under KVPY from 2019-20 to 2021-22**

S. No.	State	No. of Beneficiaries		
		2019-2020	2020-21	2021-2022
1	Andhra Pradesh	105	100	135
2	Assam	6	10	27
3	Bihar	41	59	47
4	Chandigarh	54	10	12
5	Chhattisgarh	17	31	24
6	Delhi	218	200	244
7	Goa	7	6	7
8	Gujarat	147	154	197
9	Haryana	114	194	144
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1	4	5
11	Jharkhand	37	56	48
12	Karnataka	271	234	253
13	Kerala	96	78	71
14	Madhya Pradesh	70	81	83
15	Maharashtra	358	397	378
16	Odisha	66	85	89
17	Puducherry	5	5	2
18	Punjab	83	155	154
19	Rajasthan	377	274	313
20	Tamil Nadu	136	150	189
21	Telangana	217	180	199
22	Tripura	10	9	14
23	Uttar Pradesh	211	228	194
24	Uttarakhand	13	26	16
25	West Bengal	242	238	229
26	Other	2	0	0
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2904</b>	<b>2964</b>	<b>3074</b>

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