

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 134
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023

NATIONAL SCIENCE CAMPS ORGANIZED UNDER KVPY

134. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

- (a) the manner in which Government is identifying young students who have talent and aptitude for research;
- (b) details of national science camps organized during last five years to push scientific temper, inclination towards research, etc.;
- (c) the reasons for funds sanctioned under KVPY coming down from ₹ 207 crores in 2020-21 to ₹ 135 crores in 2021-22;
- (d) details of allocation made in 2022-23 and utilized as of 1st February, 2023;
- (e) the reasons for beneficiaries from Andhra Pradesh being only 500 students approximately between 2017-18 to 2021-22; and
- (f) steps being taken to cover more students, particularly from Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing a national program "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" with objectives to attract young students to study science and pursue research career and to promote creative thinking and foster a culture of innovation among them. It is implemented through various components. INSPIRE-MANAK intends to target young students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in class VI to X. The nominations are sought from schools, by the Department, during specific period of the year, through online mode at E-Management of INSPIRE Award Scheme (E-MIAS) portal. Under INSPIRE-MANAK, in a financial year, ten (10.0) lakh ideas are being targeted from more than five (05) lakh middle and high schools across the country, out of which one (1.0) lakh ideas are being shortlisted for an initial award of Rs. 10000 /- each, directly into the bank accounts of the students through Direct Benefit Transfer for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea. After a series of District Level and State level exhibitions,

the top 60 innovations are selected from National Level Exhibition for whom incubation support is provided and also protected for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) division of Department organizes Children's Science Congress every year where children of the age 10-17 year's work on research-based projects on given focal theme. The children often attempt to solve the community problems by application of science and learning science in that process. Initiative in Research & Innovation in STEM (IRIS) is a programme where the young students undertake research in certain identified areas and come out with research based innovative solutions. Children from all parts of the country participate. Winners of National IRIS Fair then participate in an International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

(b) Science Awareness Camps are organized across the country to create awareness of the young students towards the science and create scientific temperament. Contemporary area like climate change, artificial intelligence and cyber security are being taken up to create an awareness amongst young students. INSPIRE Internship Science Camps are organized across the country to provide opportunity to the talented students to interact with Science icons from India and abroad, including Nobel Laureates, to experience the joys of scientific pursuit. These science camps nourish the curiosity of students in science, help them to think out-of-the box and attract students at an early age of 16-17 years to choose career in scientific research and development. Vijyoshi Camps under KVPY are organized to motivate students pursuing under-graduation to opt research as career in Science and Technology areas.

(c) The funds for Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana was sanctioned based on the previous year expenditure and requirement of funds for next year Fellowship release. Funds sanctioned during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 were ₹ 17.34 Cr., ₹ 20.71 Cr. and ₹ 13.45 Cr., respectively.

(d) There is no separate allocation of funds for the KVPY program however, funds for implementation of KVPY program are sanctioned from the INSPIRE/INSPIRE-SHE budget. During the year 2022-23, till 1st February, 2023, ₹ 843.80 Lakh KVPY fellowship is released to the KVPY Fellows.

(e) KVPY being competitive program with PAN India spread, students from all parts of the country participate. Number of beneficiaries from Andhra Pradesh under KVPY between 2017-18 to 2021-22 are 564 students.

(f) To identify more students with talent and aptitude for research across the country including Andhra Pradesh, 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 on competitive basis.
