GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2407
ANSWERED ON-22/03/2023

National Research Foundation

2407 Shri Jugalsinh Lokhandwala:

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

(a)   whether a decision has been taken to set up a National Research Foundation (NRF);

(b)   if so, the details thereof and the budget allocated for the same; and

(c)   what are the objectives of NRF and how will it ensure development of scientific temper across the country, especially in backward areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b): National Education Policy 2020 provisions for establishment of a National Research Foundation to fund outstanding peer - reviewed research and to actively seed research in Universities and Colleges. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) / Committee on Establishment Expenditure (CEE) recommended for approval of the creation of National Research Foundation (NRF). NRF has been allocated Rs. 0.01 crore in 2022-23. Further, budgetary provision of Rs. 2000.0 crore in 2023-24 is made for NRF.

(c): The NRF is envisioned as an overarching apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country. The objectives of NRF include funding of competitive grant proposals; setting up of research infrastructure and environment that is conducive for scientific pursuit; evolving nationally coordinated programmes; encouraging collaboration with scientists from within and outside India, including scientists of Indian origin, with a view to enriching the Indian scientific ecosystem.

In addition, NRF will focus to seed, grow, and facilitate research at academic and research institutions, particularly at universities and colleges where research capacity is at a nascent stage through programmes such as R&D projects, fellowships, academic chairs, and creation of centre of excellence. These initiatives will ensure development of scientific temper across the country including backward areas.

*****