

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2279
ANSWERED ON-09/08/2023**

Research in Science and humanities

2279 Shri Rakesh Sinha:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote quality research both in science and humanities;
- (b) how much Government propose to spend on research through National Research Foundation in the next five years; and
- (c) will it consider to promote research on democracy in ancient India?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)**

(a) to (c): Government has taken several steps for promoting quality of research in science and humanities. Some of the key programmes for promotion of research ecosystem in the country includes- Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure (FIST), Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF), INSPIRE fellowships, programmes for promoting women in science, INSPIRE Awards - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA), National Post-Doctoral Fellowship scheme (N-PDF), Prime Minister's Research Fellowships (PMRF), National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System (ICPS), Clean Energy & Water Technology Mission, Uchchar Avishkar Yojana (UAY), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), Scheme for promotion of Research and Academic Collaboration (SPARC), National Initiative for Design Innovation (NIDI), Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS) etc.

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 also envisaged establishment of National Research Foundation (NRF) to seed, grow and promote Research and Development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. Accordingly, the Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023 in the Parliament to establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 crore during five years (2023-28) with government funding of Rs 14,000/- crore during this period. NRF also seeks to promote scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
