

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2533
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

VAIBHAV FELLOWSHIP

2533. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) the details of the features of Vaibhav Fellowship which aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world through mobility of faculty/researcher from overseas institutions to India;
- (b) the progress made in this respect, country-wise and field-wise;
- (c) the total number of fellowships awarded so far;
- (d) the benefits realised in this respect; and
- (e) the proposed measures to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a): VAIBHAV Fellowship envisages a collaboration between scientists of Indian Diaspora with Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), Universities and/ or public funded Scientific Institutions. The VAIBHAV Fellow would identify an Indian Institution for collaboration and may spend up to two months in a year for maximum 3 years.

During the fellowship period the Fellow is expected to share the Best Practices on research and translation of research, incubation etc., build long term connections, connect Indian Students to the foreign faculty/scientists and develop new approaches to Research processes and futuristic technologies. The VAIBHAV fellow would collaborate with the Indian scientist team during his visit and beyond via online meetings and would give a report on completion of travel indicating work done/initiated, follow up required etc.

The Indian academic/ scientific Institutes will host the scientist and provide office/lab facilities, consumables, access to lab equipment and facilitation for various infrastructure support. The host faculty/scientist will start a project/technology translation/start-up/incubation which should be aligned with the priorities area of the country. The Host institute will adapt the shared best practices and will build the long-term research connections with the fellow.

(b), (c) & (d): The First Call of VAIBHAV Fellowships was announced on 15 June, 2023 which get closed on 31 July, 2023. The Fellowships are yet to be awarded. The benefits will be realized at least one year after the implementation.

(e): VAIBHAV Fellowship programme is expected to bring in the Indian STEMM Diaspora Scientists in collaboration with Indian Educational Institutions resulting in the exchange of knowledge, best practices and evolving research areas in the long-run.
