

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 923
ANSWERED ON 27/07/2023

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER MANAK SCHEME

923. SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being taken to foster a culture of creative and innovative thinking among school children, under the Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK) Scheme;
- (b) the achievements under the MANAK Scheme, since its inception; and
- (c) the details of beneficiaries of the Scheme in Telangana?

ANSWER

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

(a) Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing INSPIRE - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) under its flagship programme Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE). The INSPIRE MANAK scheme is a unique initiative for attracting school students by fostering a culture of innovation among them. The scheme caters to school children in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in Class 6-10. INSPIRE - MANAK scheme targets ten lakh innovative ideas from more than five lakh middle and high schools across the country, in a year. These selected students then participate in District, State and National Level Exhibitions. The participants of National Level Exhibition are provided mentorship at premier educational and technical institutions of the country. Top sixty projects are rewarded as National Winners. The scheme is being implemented in all the State/UTs of the country. The Department is organizing workshops involving Teachers, District and State Nodal Officers implementing the Scheme to create awareness about the program. Audio-visual tools, posters, brochures about the scheme are also disseminated to the schools as a part of awareness building. Keeping pace with the times, a robust web portal has been developed leveraging cloud architecture, a cloud based review system for selection of students, mobile application for not only submitting the nominations but also for conducting District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC) and State Level

Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC). As an added measure, in order to increase the quality of the ideas received under the scheme, a teacher training component to provide training to teachers about innovation and identifying them in the school environment is included in the scheme and being run on pilot mode.

(b) The scheme started as INSPIRE Awards in 2009-10 to attract school students of 6th to 10th class towards science. It was revamped and renamed in the year 2016 as INSPIRE - MANAK with modified objectives including promotion of creative thinking and innovation among young students. The financial assistance provided under the scheme were also enhanced from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 10,000/- per student. A total of 2,72,285 students have been selected for INSPIRE - MANAK from 2017-18 till 2022-23. The Department has so far conducted three National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) under the revamped INSPIRE – MANAK Scheme. A total of 2113 students exhibited their projects/models in these three exhibitions.

Multipurpose Chulha, an innovative model by the Student Ms. Ankita Singh has been transferred to M/s Hindustan Machinery, Odisha. Another innovation, Mobile dumping cart, made by the student Mr. Sikanto Mandal was transferred to Gujarat based Sarjan Innovations. (a start-up).

(c) The details of beneficiaries of INSPIRE – MANAK in Telangana are as below:

S. No.	Year	No. of students selected
1	2017-18	3569
2	2018-19	4492
3	2019-20	3472
4	2020-21	3813
5	2021-22	2805
6	2022-23	2912
	Total	21063
