

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1402
ANSWERED ON 14/12/2023

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

1402 # Shri Kartikeya Sharma

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

- (a) the details of the National Research Foundation (NRF), its corporate body, funding corpus, mission and vision;
- (b) whether the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act has been implemented, if not, the proposed date of implementation;
- (c) the key research areas targeted by Government in the coming years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to promote science and technology research in backward areas and aspirational districts?

ANSWER

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

(a) The primary objective of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation is to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture. It will also encourage scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences, to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto. The ANRF will seed, grow and promote R&D and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

The ANRF has a total estimated budget of Rs. 50,000 crores for five years (2023-28), out of which a major share of over 70% is estimated to come from non-government sources, especially through donations from public sector enterprises, the private sector, philanthropist organisations, foundations or international bodies, etc. Department of Science and Technology (DST) is the administrative Department of ANRF which will be governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The ANRF is going to function under the supervision of an Executive Council chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

(b) The rollout of ANRF has been initiated and in this regard, DST has established an ANRF cell and constituted an Implementation Committee to prepare the rules and regulations for the functioning of ANRF.

(c) The key research areas targeted by the Government are of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture, and scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences.

(d) The government has taken several steps to promote S&T research in the country. The primary objective of ANRF is to bring equity among all sections of R&D community and regions so that R&D funding reach all the stakeholders including those in the backward areas and aspirational districts.
