

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 618
ANSWERED ON 07/12/2023

ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

618. Shri Nabam Rebia:
Shri Naresh Bansal:
Dr. K. Laxman:

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

- (a) the aims and objectives of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) passed by Parliament recently;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to ensure more equitable funding of scientific research and bringing in greater private participation; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to create a PPP entity to invest in Research and Development in science and technology sector?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) passed by Parliament recently is aimed to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences and scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences and also to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research. The aims and objectives of ANRF include: Seeding, growing and facilitating research at academic and research institutions; funding competitive peer-reviewed grant proposals; assisting in setting up research infrastructure and environment; supporting translation of research undertaken into capital intensive technologies; evolving nationally coordinated programmes; coordinating across the Central Government, State Governments, public authorities, industries, and research institutions, to document and analyse the expenditure on scientific research and their outcomes; evolving participation in international collaborative projects and fostering exchange of scientific information etc.

(b) Government has taken several steps for promotion of scientific research including equitable funding to research at academic and research institutions, particularly at universities and colleges where research capacity is at a nascent stage, through programmes such as research and development (R&D) projects, fellowships etc. Ongoing schemes like State University Research Excellence (SURE) ensure greater participation of state universities and colleges to make the research enterprise more equitable. ANRF including its governing structure has been modelled to have greater private participation and it ensures greater opportunities to public and private sector enterprises and organisations in R&D. Ongoing industry focused schemes like Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE) provide vibrant platforms for several industries to take up industry relevant research for better impact and outcome.

(c) Government through ANRF has emphasized investments in R&D in science and technology sector through PPP models. ANRF would create conducive environment for the public sector enterprises as well as the private sector entities to invest in the activities of the Foundation. ANRF will set up frameworks to identify scientific and practical solutions for societal, developmental, financial and techno-economic challenges including technology gaps and fund R&D through various mechanisms including creation of Special Purpose Funds to cater any specific project or research. These entities would enhance investment in the PPP framework.
