

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1794
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2024

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration

1794 # **Shri Tajveer Singh:**

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

- (a) whether Government is running the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) to 'promote academic and research collaboration,' the details of the objectives, benefits and activities under the said scheme;
- (b) the manner in which the collaboration between Indian and foreign universities is being promoted under the SPARC, the details of the major research activities and projects being undertaken under the said scheme; and
- (c) whether Government propose to increase the budget allocation for the SPARC, if so, the details of the scope and expected outcomes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c):

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) emphasizes on building a robust ecosystem of research in India including establishment of National Research Foundation (NRF). To achieve this, Government has established "Anusandhan National Research Foundation" (ANRF) with an aim to provide equitable funding and democratization of resources in research and academics. Further Government has also realigned the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) to amplify research in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). A budget outlay of Rs. 425.2 crores have been approved for a period of five years (i.e., from FY2021-22 to FY 2025-26) to SPARC.

The SPARC aims to promote academic and research collaborations between the top Indian Institutions with the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations as per prescribed rules. Components of SPARC to enable international collaborations include: (a) Visits and long-term stay of top international faculty / researchers in Indian institutions to pursue teaching and research (b) Visits by Indian students for training and experimentation in premier laboratories worldwide, (c) Joint development of niche courses, world-class books and monographs, translatable patents,

demonstrable technologies or action research outcomes and products (d) Consolidation of Bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships through Workshops in India, (e) Publication, Dissemination and Visibility through a high profile annual international Conference in India and (f) training of researchers and students.

As on 5th December 2024, 465 foreign faculty members have visited India to conduct Courses, Training Programmes, or Workshop while 130 Indian faculty members have visited abroad for the same; 234 Indian students have visited abroad for training and experimentation while 43 foreign students visiting India for the same. 383 workshops have been organized with participation of 45,000+ students & scholars; 50 international conferences have been organized on SPARC identified themes. 154 monographs have been published alongside around 699 journal publications and 367 publications in conference proceedings have been achieved. 30 patents have been filed & three patents have been granted.
