

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2596
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2024

Promotion of Research Projects in Odisha Universities

2596 **Shri Debashish Samantaray:**

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

- (a) the number of Research projects approved and funded in Odisha Universities in the last five years;
- (b) the initiatives taken by Government to promote research and innovation in Odisha's higher education sector; and
- (c) whether Government plan to establish dedicated Research centres in Odisha Universities, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per information received from the University Grants Commission (UGC), the number of beneficiary and expenditure details of the various Fellowship/Scholarship research grants schemes in respect of the Odisha state in the last five years are as tabulated below:

(₹ In Crore)

2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
Ben.	Exp.	Ben.	Exp.	Ben.	Exp.	Ben.	Exp.	Ben.	Exp.
445	10.57	701	14.8	986	19.46	914	21.24	700	30.31

Further, in accordance with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, the UGC has developed "Guidelines for establishment of Research & Development Cells in Higher Education Institutions" for setting up a robust mechanism for developing and strengthening the research ecosystem within the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). Accordingly, upto November 2024, 1689 HEIs across the country have established Research & Development cells with 18 located in the state of Odisha.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are premier institutions recognized globally for excellence in technical education, research, and innovation. IIT Bhubaneswar, Odisha has launched "100 Cube" initiative, which aims to foster robust innovation, cutting-edge research, and accelerated product development and provides world-class infrastructure, expert mentorship, funding opportunities, and strong industry-academia partnerships. Further, to promote innovation, research, and entrepreneurship, the Government of India has approved a project of ₹130 Cr. (funding through HEFA-Higher

Education Funding Agency) to establish a state-of-the-art Research and Entrepreneurship Park in IIT, Bhubaneswar.

The Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) carry out research in frontier areas of science to provide quality science education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. As on date, there are 7 IISERs out of which one is situated in Berhampur, Odisha.

The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell promotes technological innovation for social good across educational institutions. By fostering an environment that encourages creativity and entrepreneurship, the Cell facilitates the development of sustainable commercial models. Through initiatives such as the Smart India Hackathon (SIH), Institution's Innovation Councils (IIC), KAPILA (Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness), Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp and AICTE MoE Investor Network, it strives to integrate innovation into the core of HEIs. The Innovation Cell collaborates with various Ministries and Government departments, ensuring that these innovations contribute to societal progress while also addressing real-world challenges.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi sanctioned an Emeritus Scientist Project to Dr. C.R. Satapathy, Emeritus Scientist, College of Agriculture in Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar, and released a sum of ₹ 40.62040 lakhs for a duration from 01.12.2020 to 30.11.2023. Dr. C.R. Satapathy worked on "Standardization of comb honey production technology in Apis cerana indica Fab. for empowering beekeepers of Odisha to double their income".

Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar was also granted Institutional Development Plan project on "Branding the University for Excellence and Equity in Agricultural Education to Produce Skilled Graduates for Enhanced Employment and Entrepreneurship" under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), a mega network project of the ICAR co-funded equally by the Central Government and World Bank, and sanctioned ₹2497.61 lakhs for a period from 2018-19 to 2023-24. The project has improved the efficiency of Agricultural Higher Education through enhanced faculty competence, innovative partnerships with industry and international universities and strengthening/ renovation/modernization of existing physical facilities.

For strengthening the research ecosystem across India, the Department of Science and Technology is also implementing the Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) programme and the Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) scheme. Over the years, more than 20 academic institutions located in the State of Odisha have been supported under FIST scheme. KIIT (Deemed to be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha received support under the PURSE initiative.

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has also supported 73 R&D projects in the State of Odisha in the last five years.
