

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1091
(TO BE ANSWERED ON. 13.02.2025)

PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

1091 # Shri Mayankbhai Jaydevbhai Nayak:

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

- (a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has a special programme to connect with school students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the achievements of the CSIR School Students Connect initiative; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated for this during the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been engaged in connecting school students with scientists through its “Jigyasa” (student-scientist connect) program. The programme envisages opening up the CSIR’s national scientific facilities to school children, enabling CSIR scientific knowledgebase and facility to be utilized by school children to instill ‘Scientific Thinking’ in the young minds.
- (c) Till date, more than 9,50,000 students and about 29,500 teachers have benefitted, directly since the inception of JIGYASA Programme. CSIR has also signed MoU with NVS (Navodya Vidyalaya Samiti) and Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog to further accelerate the Student-Scientist outreach program of CSIR.

Recently, around 830 School Students across the country performed DNA isolation at 33 CSIR Labs. Through this exercise, the students learned about the scientific principles of cell structure and chemical nature of DNA. The students were also given a short questionnaire designed to evaluate their understanding of scientific principles, and assess their scientific aptitude. The outcome of the pilot study of scientific aptitude assessment followed by a larger study, is expected to help not only the students in making STEM career choices suited to their aptitude but also policy makers in designing curriculum and align with New Education Policy 2020.

In recent past, CSIR has also launched a new initiative “Empowering Pupil Innovation and Creativity (EPIC)” under Jigyasa program for school students with an aim to inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness, innovation and scientific temper among the school students to address the challenges in the country through S&T. EPIC 2024 Hackathon was also organized for the students who had completed their Summer Internship at CSIR laboratories under the EPIC program.

- (d) The funds spent/allocated for this during the last three years and the current year under the CSIR-JIGYASA Programme is as under:

(Rs. in Lakh)

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
597.10	1269.63	1650	1900

*allocated
