

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3837**  
ANSWERED ON 03/04/2025

**POPULARITY OF SCIENCE AMONGST STUDENTS**

3837 SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to popularise science amongst students especially female students during the last five years;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to promote science and technology amongst students of Punjab;
- (c) the details of scholarships, stipends, and other allocations to students of Punjab during last five years; and
- (d) the details of outcomes achieved towards this till date?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (b): The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Government of India, has taken numerous steps to popularize science amongst students, including female students in schools and colleges across the country including Punjab, through its three verticals i) Department of Science and Technology (DST), ii) Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and iii) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

DST is popularizing science, technology, and innovation (STI) among school students in the age group of 10-17 years to inculcate scientific temper and introduce them to methods of research and innovation through its flagship programs, viz., National Children Science Congress (NCSC), Initiative for Research and Innovation in STEM (IRIS), and Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)-Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK). These programs are organized at district, state, and national level and have benefitted more than 50 lakh students in last five years.

In order to enhance the representation of girls in different streams of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics), DST initiated a dedicated program called *Vigyan Jyoti* in 2019-20, to facilitate a conducive and enabling environment for girls to pursue education in STEM fields. Since its inception, *Vigyan Jyoti* has reached out to 300 districts, benefitting more than 82,000 female students of class XI-XII with the assistance of one-year scholarship.

Since 2017, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of DSIR in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has connected school students with CSIR-scientists to promote scientific temper under its outreach program "*Jigyasa*". The initiative extends classroom-based learning to research lab-based learning and has reached out to 9,50,000 students and 29,500 teachers.

DST further supports students pursuing Bachelor and Master's programs in Academic Institutions/Universities through INSPIRE-Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE). SHE aims to enhance participation of youth in basic science research by providing summer internship with leading researchers. A total of 1,58,989 students have been supported in the last five years and 57 % of the scholarships have been awarded to females. DBT also supports students pursuing Masters in Biotechnology and more than 3,380 students (2,069 female students) in 93 higher education organizations have been supported.

Apart from the above-mentioned schemes/programs, DST also organizes National Science Day and National Mathematics Day every year on 28 February and 22 December in different states through State S& T Councils to celebrate scientific achievements thus promoting science and technology among students. Several other engaging activities viz. low-cost teaching aid workshops, STEM demonstration activities, mobile science exhibitions and industry visits, etc. are also supported to empower students and teachers.

(c) The number of students supported in Punjab under various schemes and programs of MoST during the last five years is given in the table below:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Beneficiary Students</b>	<b>Stipend/Fellowship amount</b>
1	National Children Science Congress	9,042	No fellowship/stipend provided
2	Jigyasa (since inception in 2017)	1,92,903	No fellowship/stipend provided
3	INSPIRE MANAK	2,074	@Rs10000 onetime payment
4	Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)	785	Scholarship @ Rs 5000/- per month
5	Post-graduation programs in Biotechnology	100	Fellowship @ Rs. 5000/- per month
6	Vigyan Jyoti	3,618	@ fellowship @ Rs. 1000/- and study materials worth ₹1,000 per month
7	National Science Day and National Mathematics Day	2,38,500	No fellowship/stipend provided
8	Mobile Science Exhibition	2,00, 000	No fellowship/stipend provided

(d) These programs enable critical and lateral thinking among students and motivate students toward scientific careers. The dedicated efforts of MoST result in trained S&T human resources at the national level, research publications in science citation indexed (SCI) journals, and patents.

\*\*\*\*\*