

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1167
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

STARS research scheme

1167. Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) whether Government has received proposals under the Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS) during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the number of proposals received and projects approved during this period;
- (c) the total funds allocated and disbursed under the scheme in the last two years;
- (d) the State-wise and subject-wise breakup of approved projects, particularly in Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Nanosciences, Data Sciences & Mathematics and Earth Sciences; and
- (e) whether steps have been taken to ensure regional balance and inclusion of institutions from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (e): A Central Sector scheme called the Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS) was launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in February, 2019, with a budget outlay of Rs.250 crores. It was aimed at providing a thrust to research in Higher Education Institutions, by promoting translational and India-centric research in sciences in six domains, viz., Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Nano Sciences, Data Science & Mathematics and Earth Sciences. The scheme encompasses award of projects in two calls/phases. A total of 141 projects were approved in Phase-I at a total cost of Rs.90.75 crores and all of them have been completed.

A call for proposal inviting projects under Phase-II was initiated in December 2022. A total of 1053 proposals were received across the six domains, out of which, the Apex Committee approved 227 projects in May, 2023 with an overall cost of Rs.131.97 crores. The state-wise and subject-wise breakup of projects under Phase-I and Phase-II is publicly available on the website of STARS scheme which may be accessed at <https://stars.iisc.ac.in/p/downloads-1>. The list reflects a wide participation from States across the country. IISc Bangalore, as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA), has disbursed Rs.58 crores in the last two years (F.Y. 2023-24 and F.Y. 2024-25) for the projects approved under the Scheme.

Sustained efforts have been undertaken to ensure active participation from institutions from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. A series of workshops on Grant Writing and Patent Filing were organized with special focus on researchers from the institutions located in Tier2 and Tier-3 cities to enhance the quality of scientific proposal writing. The impact is evident by the fact that the share of approved projects from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities has increased, from around 50% in Phase-I, to 60% in Phase-II.
