

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 359  
ANSWERED ON- 23/07/2025**

**Disbursement of funds under Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF)**

**359 Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham:**

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

- (a) the details of disbursement of funds, State-wise/UT-wise under Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) over the last five years, including the number of beneficiaries and total amounts allocated;
- (b) whether Government will consider increasing PMRF fellowship amount to attract and retain top research talent, if so, what are the proposed revisions, timelines for implementation, and budgetary allocations;
- (c) steps taken to enhance mentorship programs under PMRF to provide better academic and professional guidance to research scholars; and
- (d) whether there are structured mechanisms in place to assess mentor performance and ensure accountability in guiding PMRF fellows, if so, the details on evaluation criteria and feedback mechanisms?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (d): In pursuance to the Budget Announcement 2018-19, the Government had approved Prime Minister's Research Fellows Scheme (PMRF) with total financial outlay of Rs. 1650.00 Cr. The scheme aimed to attract the best and brightest minds to pursue high – quality research in India's premier academic institutions with enhanced financial support which includes fellowship and research grant. Under PMRF, 3688 scholars have been admitted. Till date, Rs. 1217.73 crores have been released under the scheme.

The first phase of PMRF has led to better outcomes of research and thus, 10,000 fellowships have been announced under PMRF in Budget 2025-26 for technological research with enhanced financial support.

Under the PMRF Scheme, several measures have been implemented to provide effective academic and professional mentorship to scholars. Each PMRF fellow is guided by dedicated faculty from their host institute throughout their PMRF journey. Regular progress assessments are conducted, during which feedback is provided by both the institute-level faculty and a national level expert committee, ensuring timely and constructive inputs to maintain research standards. These structured, periodic assessments play a crucial role in monitoring research quality and enhancing the effectiveness of mentorship.

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