

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 611
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2025

INSPIRE AWARD MANAK COMPETITION

611# Dr. BHIM SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that about 50 per cent of the students selected from Bihar in the INSPIRE-Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge (MANAK) Award competition do not participate in the next level, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has reviewed the fact that despite receiving a grant of ₹10,000 most of the students are not able to participate in the competition; and
- (c) whether Government is developing any policy or monitoring mechanism to ensure that the selected students get the money on time and participate actively, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) A total of 3,407 students were selected from Bihar under the INSPIRE - Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK) program for the year 2022–23. To showcase their models/prototypes, 28 District Level Exhibitions were organized, in which 2,648 students (77.72%) participated. From these, approximately 210 students were selected to compete at the State Level Exhibition. Subsequently, 16 students' models/prototypes were selected at the state level, and all the selected students participated in the 11th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) held from 17th to 19th September 2024 in New Delhi.

(b) Yes sir, the Department has reviewed the concern, and all selected students are directed through their schools, as well as District and State Nodal Officers to participate in the District and State Level Exhibitions and showcase their models/prototypes. Students who could not participate in the initial District Level Exhibitions are encouraged to take part in subsequent exhibitions to exhibit their models/prototypes, as they are eligible to participate at any time during their academic course from Class 6 to 12.

(c) The Department is disbursing financial assistance of ₹10,000/- directly to students' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) via the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal in a timely manner. Beneficiaries whose payments are unsuccessful due to incorrect bank account details are informed through the concerned school authorities to update their bank information. Once updated, the financial assistance is disbursed accordingly to ensure their active participation.
