GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *134
(ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025)

PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

*134. Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai:

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

(a)   The achievements of CSIR school students connect initiative:
(b)   The details of funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise particularly in Gujarat;
(c)   whether CSIR has a focussed programme for engaging with school students; and
(d)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *134 FOR REPLY ON 11.12.2025 REGARDING PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ASKED BY SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

(a)   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 the CSIR scientific knowledgebase and facility to be utilized by school children to instil 'Scientific Thinking' in the young minds. Till date, 3,900 Jigyasa events have been implemented by CSIR laboratories, where more than 14,00,000 students and about 80,000 teachers have benefited, directly since the inception of JIGYASA Programme through visits to labs, scientist visits, lab activities, webinars, among others.

(b)   The details of funds released during the last three years, State-wise to the CSIR constituent laboratories is as under:

(Rs.in lakhs)

State/ U.T	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Assam	48.27	83.27	79.27
Chandigarh	116.32	128.33	92.83
Goa	16.98	10.48	9.48
Gujarat	**16.39**	**16.39**	**15.96**
Himachal Pradesh	32.17	25.17	21.67
Jammu& Kashmir	29.75	33.63	29.63
Jharkhand	67.33	70.33	71.33
Karnataka	98.81	95.81	99.57
Kerala	27.30	30.30	29.30
Madhya Pradesh	53.10	54.10	47.10
Maharashtra	200.30	215.90	224.35
New Delhi	136.27	123.19	107.64
Odisha	39.77	42.77	40.77
Rajasthan	19.28	34.42	32.42
Tamil Nadu	109.46	108.96	106.96
Telangana	144.56	163.46	102.93
Uttar Pradesh	111.57	127.97	120.47
Uttarakhand	42.00	37.00	36.00
West Bengal	83.00	81.50	73.50

(c)&(d)   Yes, Sir. To promote scientific temper amongst the school students, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been implementing a programme named "JIGYASA", which is a student-scientist connect programme that was initiated in 2017. The programme is implemented by the constituent laboratories/institutes of CSIR in their region, both in urban and rural areas. The models of engagement with the school children include:

- Laboratory Visit
- Popular Lecture Series
- Summer Vacation Programmes
- Teachers' Workshop

- Student Residential Programme
- Visits of Scientists to Schools
- EPIC Hackathon for Student Innovators
- Lab-specific activities / On-site experiments

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, CSIR has also launched a new initiative "Empowering Pupil Innovation and Creativity (EPIC)" under Jigyasa program for school students intending 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.

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