

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1144  
ANSWERED ON-10/12/2025**

**Research and development in higher education**

**1144 Shri Saket Gokhale:**

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

- (a) whether India's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) as percentage of GDP stands at only 0.64 percent, far below countries like China (2.4 percent), Germany (3.1 percent), and USA (3.5 percent), if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the year-wise allocation and expenditure on R&D in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from 2021 till date;
- (c) the amount of funding disbursed by National Research Foundation (NRF) and the number of research projects funded from 2021 till date; and
- (d) the details of whether the target of raising ₹36,000 crore from private sources for NRF is on track, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)**

(a) to (d): The Gross expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) in the country has been consistently increasing over the years and has more than doubled from Rs. 60,196.75 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 127,380.96 crore in 2020-21.

The government has taken up several steps to enhance private sector GERD which include: incentivizing investment by private sector to increase their share in GERD, improving the ease of doing business in the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) activities; introducing flexible tools for public procurement; creating avenues for collaborative STI funding through portfolio-based funding mechanisms such as Public-Private-Partnerships and other innovative hybrid funding mechanisms. The government has encouraged corporate sector to make R&D investments under the provision of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has been established by the ANRF Act 2023 in February, 2024 with the aim to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the field of science and technology with the provision of substantive share of budget contribution from private sector.

ANRF has launched several programs like EV Mission, 2D Innovation Hub, Med-Tech and AI for Science and Engineering under Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA) to strengthen India's research ecosystem, wherein ₹36,000 crore was stipulated from private sources. ANRF has also announced Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Research Program under MAHA.

During the year 2024-25, the Government has supported over 45,500 PhD scholars with fellowships ranging from ₹37,400 to ₹42,000 per month. Under the Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme, 3,688 scholars had been admitted, with a total of ₹1,267.73 crore released till date. In the 2025-26 Budget, the Government also announced PMRF 2.0, aimed at supporting 10,000 students with enhanced fellowship provisions.

Further, the Government has launched the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme on November 3, 2025, a ₹1-lakh-crore initiative, representing a significant move to strengthen India's research and development landscape.

\*\*\*\*\*