

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 119
ANSWERED ON - 29/07/2026**

LOTUS Programme

119 # Shri Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that researchers from India are invited by Japan under the 'LOTUS' Programme for undertaking research in the field of science;
- (b) the number of researchers likely to get the opportunity to be part of the Programme this year;
- (c) the number of researchers who have participated in the Programme so far;
- (d) the contribution of these researchers to the development of the country; and
- (e) the assistance and facilities provided to these researchers by Government of India and Government of Japan?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) of RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 119 ANSWERED ON 29/07/2026 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI GOVINDBHAI LALJIBHAI DHOLAKIA REGARDING LOTUS PROGRAMME.

- (a) The LOTUS (Promoting International Talent Circulation by Inviting Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Researchers from India) Programme is an initiative of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Government of Japan for the Ph.D and Post Doctoral Scholars from the Indian Institutes/Universities. The programme supports research exchanges by inviting graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from India to undertake research in Japan under ongoing or newly established joint research projects between academic institutions in India and Japan.
- (b) For the financial year 2026, under the LOTUS Programme support to approx. 1,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from India has been announced.
- (c) A total of 345 researchers from India have been selected under the Programme so far since its inception in Financial Year 2024.
- (d) The programme has strengthened India–Japan scientific collaboration by facilitating joint research, researcher mobility and long-term institutional partnerships. The outcome includes enhanced research capacity, knowledge exchange, development of advanced scientific skills, collaborative publications, technology development, and sustained academic partnerships between Indian and Japanese institutions.
- (e) The support provided by the Government of Japan under the programme includes assistance towards living expenses & accommodation for the student researchers during their research stay in Japan. The international travel expenses are borne either by the participating Indian institution or by the student researcher, as applicable.
