

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1621  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26/07/2017**

**VISITING ADVANCED JOINT RESEARCH FACULTY**

†1621. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY *विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री* be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty Scheme (VAJRA) along with its present status;
- (b) the details of the funds earmarked, sanctioned and allocated under this scheme, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the target set and achievements made under this scheme so far;
- (d) the number of countries involved under this scheme so far along with its response; and
- (e) whether the Government is planning to include some more countries under this scheme and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be included?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES**

**(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDHARY)**

*विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री*

(श्री वाई. एस. चौधरी)

- (a) The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has recently launched a 'Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme' to connect the Indian academic and research and development (R&D) systems to the best of global science and scientists for a sustained international collaborative research. The scheme offers adjunct / visiting faculty assignments to overseas scientists, faculty members and R&D professionals including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to undertake high quality collaborative research in cutting edge areas of science and technology including interdisciplinary areas of priority such as energy, water, health, security, nutrition, materials and manufacturing, etc. with one or more Indian collaborators of public funded academic and research institutions of India. The VAJRA Faculty should be an active researcher working in an overseas leading academic / research / industrial organization with significant accomplishments in R&D. The initial Faculty assignment is given for a period of one year extendable to subsequent years based on the collaborative outcome and interest. The residency period of VAJRA Faculty in the host institution would be for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months every year. VAJRA Faculty is provided US Dollars 15000 in the first month of residence and US Dollars 10000 in each of the subsequent month. Presently, call for applications is made open for prospective researchers.
- (b) Sufficient fund is earmarked for the VAJRA Scheme from the overall budgetary allocation of SERB, which stands at Rs. 800 crore in BE 2017-18. This is not a centrally sponsored scheme but a Central Plan Scheme and hence no State/UT-wise allocation is made.
- (c) The scheme is launched recently on pilot basis for initial 3-4 years with a target of enrolling 50-75 VAJRA Faculty per year. A dedicated website [www.vajra-india.in](http://www.vajra-india.in) has been made available for wider dissemination of the scheme and a portal [www.serbonline.in](http://www.serbonline.in) has been put in place for online submission of VAJRA applications.
- (d) Scientists from countries like USA, Russia, UK, France, Italy have expressed interest to undertake VAJRA Faculty assignments in India. The Scheme is open to active and accomplished scientist / faculty from all countries.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.