

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3716
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9/08/2017**

VAJRA SCHEME

**3716. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:**

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

- (a) the challenges faced by the Government in the implementation of the VAJRA scheme;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the difficulties in the implementation of the scheme;
- (c) whether there is any improvement in the related indices after the implementation of the scheme and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is undertaking any other policies for promoting participation of NRIs and overseas scientific community in research and development in India and if so, the details thereof?

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 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 was launched recently on pilot basis for initial 3-4 years with a target of enrolling 50-75 VAJRA Faculty per year. Call for applications has been made open from the prospective researchers at this stage. The challenges, if any, faced by the Government shall be known only once the scheme is implemented fully for atleast one complete cycle.

(b) & (c): Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The Ministry of Science and Technology has structured policy frameworks to support international scientific and technological collaboration by building bilateral partnerships with selected countries across the globe, with the aim to provide value addition to various national programs and missions of the Government. The collaboration is promoted through various modes such as joint research projects; bilateral workshops and symposium; multi-institutional networked R&D projects; establishing virtual joint laboratories; training programs; fellowships and visitation programs for both Indian and foreign researchers and students; promoting academia-industry partnerships for industrial R&D on bilateral level. These propitious policies assist in promoting participation of NRIs and overseas scientific community in research and development in India.
