

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2602  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3/1/2018**

**SCHEMES FOR NRI SCIENTISTS**

**2602. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has facilitated schemes for the NRI scientists to work in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes to attract scientists from abroad therein;
- (c) the response on the Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty Scheme therefor; and
- (d) the result and research output of the schemes so far?

**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) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Department of Science and Technology (DST) through Ramanujan Fellowship Scheme and the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship provide attractive avenues and opportunities to Non Resident Indian scientists of high caliber to work in Indian Institutes/Universities of their respective interest and domain. Indian citizens including NRI in the age group of 27-32 years with PhD in science, mathematics, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, and agriculture related subjects from any recognized university in the world are eligible to apply under the INSPIRE Faculty Scheme. The Faculty is eligible to receive a consolidated amount equivalent to the scale of the Assistant Professor of an IIT and a Research Grant of Rs 7 lakh per year for 5 years. The applicant under the Ramanujan & Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowships should possess a Ph.D., M.D., M. Tech, M.VSc. or equivalent degree with professional experience. The upper age limit is 45 years. Both the Fellowship schemes provide a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 85,000/- p.m for 5 years. In addition, a research grant of Rs. 10.00 lakhs for the 1st year; Rs. 7.50 lakhs for the 2nd year; Rs. 5.00 lakhs for subsequent 3 years is provided under the Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship and Rs. Rs.7.00 lakh per annum under Ramanujan Fellowship Scheme for consumables, travel, research manpower & contingencies etc. In addition to assured fellowship and research grant for a period of five years for the scientists, provisions to seek for other competitive research grant of Government made these schemes more attractive and popular. VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty Scheme is a recent initiative of DST to bring overseas scientists and academicians including NRI and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to India to work as adjunct / visiting faculty for a specific period of time in public funded academic and research institutions. 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.

(c) & (d): The VAJRA scheme was launched recently on pilot basis for initial 3-4 years with a target of enrolling 50-75 VAJRA Faculty per year. In the first round of selection Call for applications has been opened to from the prospective researchers, against which close to 250 foreign faculty members from top ranking institutions from 39 countries have expressed their willingness to work with the Indian Institutions. A total of 43 distinguished foreign faculties including NRIs from various institutions spread across 13 countries have been selected. Since it is a new scheme, considerable time is required to know the research output.

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