

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6048  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4/4/2018**

**SCHEME TO GET DOCTORAL CANDIDATES IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME**

**6048. DR. K. GOPAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is working on a scheme/programme to get doctoral candidates in science programme to publish at least one popular science article explaining their research, before they land their degree, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has earmarked Rs.90-100 crore annually over the next five years to enable at least two hours of programme every day, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has earmarked Rs.35 crore as part of a Science and Technology Radio initiative for 1,000 hours of radio programme in 19 languages through 117 stations and community radio channels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री, पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री और पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री

(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)

(a) Yes, Madam. Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched a new initiative called Augmenting Writing Skills in Articulating Research (AWSAR), in January 2018 to tap the tremendous latent potential of young researchers for promoting science communication. AWSAR envisages encouraging youth pursuing research in Science & Technology (S&T) to write popular science articles related to their area of research. This unique program will not only bring information about research being carried in the lab and thus explaining their research in interesting & engaging format to the masses. AWSAR will not only thus bridge the yawning gap that presently exists between researcher and the lay public about the work of the former but also create opportunities in the area of science journalism. Research scholars pursuing PhD or Doctoral degree as well as Post Doctoral (PD) fellows in S&T streams are encouraged to write at least one popular science article about their respective subject area and to participate in a national competition. DST will award 100 best article/stories by PhD scholars every year. The Award will include a cash prize and a certificate of appreciation besides a chance for the winning articles to be published. Top three articles would be awarded cash prizes of Rs.1,00,000, Rs.50,000 and Rs.25,000 respectively. Further, 20 entries selected from articles submitted by PD fellows will also be given cash prize of Rs.10,000/- each and a certificate of appreciation and one most outstanding story out of these will be given a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-.

(b) No, Madam. DST has not earmarked Rs.90-100 crores annually for two hours of programme every day. However, collaboration of DST with Prasar Bharti/ Doordarshan is underway for a dedicated one hour slot on science and technology on DD National, to start with.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. DST is producing radio programs through Vigyan Prasar, an Autonomous Institution of the Department, in 19 Indian languages for 494 hours annually that are being broadcast through 117 Radio Stations of All India Radio. The budget earmarked for these programs is approximately Rs3.32 crores annually. National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) Division, DST is also supporting development and broadcast programs related to women's health & nutrition and also basic mathematics for the challenges pertaining to local people through Community Radio Stations. Till date, DST has supported 68 Community Radio Stations to broadcast such programs of half an hour duration everyday.

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