

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.877  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7/2/2018

**ENCOURAGING YOUNG SCIENTISTS TO TAKE UP RESEARCH WORK**

†877. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking appropriate measures for encouraging young scientists to take up research works;
- (b) the salient features of Young Scientists Research Programme along with the amount allocated for this programme during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the age related eligibility to avail the benefits of this programme and the details of the achievements of this programme till now;
- (d) whether the Government has started any special scheme or providing any special scheme or scholarship under this programme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Government has instituted several schemes/programmes aimed at enhancing the research capabilities of young scientists and provide a platform to develop them as independent researchers; and thereby elevating the S&T landscape of the country. The schemes are designed to identify promising young researchers with innovative ideas and provide them with training and research opportunities in niche areas of basic science and engineering. Ease of funding, speed of delivery, attractive fellowships etc. are some of the characteristics of the young scientist research programmes. The funds allocated exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 785.1 crore, Rs. 1039.6 crore, Rs. 1136.9 crore and Rs. 1068.1 crore respectively.
- (c) The required age groups for obtaining benefit from the following popular young scientist schemes are given below:

Scheme / Programme Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST)	Age group: Upper age limit of 32 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST categories
National Postdoctoral Fellowship of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)	35 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories
Early Career Research Award of SERB	37 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Fellowship Schemes	35 years
Research Associate Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	40 years and 45 years for women candidates

A number of quality publications in high impact journals and patents have emanated from the Young Scientist's projects. The schemes have helped many young researchers in the progress of their career in S&T, got appointment in academic and research institutions and received recognitions in the form of awards, membership in science and engineering academies.

(d): Yes, Madam.

(e): CSIR provides Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship to certain top ranking JRF- National Eligibility Test (NET) qualified candidates to nurture the budding scientific talent and to nourish the objective of pursuit of scientific research. Thematic Fellowship programmes in Solar Energy, Building Energy Efficiency Higher & Advanced Network, Bioenergy and Water Research have been initiated by DST to support young faculty and research scholars for conducting research in US R&D and academic institutions.

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