

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4209
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019**

“Research and Higher Studies”

4209. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

Will the Minister of **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote research and higher studies in social sciences;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of grants and funds released for advancement of the same?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (c) : Yes, Madam. Social Science research in India is largely funded by the Government of India and its agencies such as the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi and the UGC. The Government has taken several steps to promote research and higher studies in social sciences such as:

- (i) **Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) Scheme:** The Scheme has been recently launched with a total cost of Rupees 414 Crore for implementation up to 31.03.2021. Under the Scheme, 1500 research projects will be awarded for 2 years to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making. The focus of research will be on (11) broad thematic areas such as : State and Democracy, Urban transformation, Media, Culture and Society, Employment, Skills and Rural transformation, Governance, Innovation and Public Policy, Growth, Macro-trade and Economic Policy, Agriculture and Rural Development, Health and Environment, Science and Education, Social Media and Technology, Politics, Law and Economics. The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, which is an autonomous body under the Ministry, has been given the responsibility for implementing the above scheme.

Further, during the year 2018-19, the Government has released Rupees 104.58 Crore as grant-in-aid to ICSSR, New Delhi for promoting social science research through various Fellowships, Research Projects; seminars and conferences; training and capacity building programmes for young researchers and faculties.

- (ii) UGC is running a scheme namely JRF in Science, Humanities & Social Sciences with the aim to provide opportunities to National Eligibility Test (NET)/Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)- qualified candidates to undertake advanced studies and research leading to M.Phil/ Ph.D Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences including Languages and Sciences. During the last 3 years, 19379 JRF fellowships have been awarded through UGC-NET for research in Social Sciences.

UGC is also running a scheme namely Swami Vivekananda Single Girl Child Fellowship for research in Social Sciences with an aim to compensate direct costs of higher education especially for such girls who happen to be the only girl child in their family. During the last 3 years, 172 fellowships have been awarded. During these 3 years total amount of Rupees 8.48 Crore are released for the Scheme.

Further, the UGC has a scheme "Major Research Projects" meant for University/College Teachers (included under Section 2 (f) & 12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956) through which Research Projects are awarded for promotion of Indian Languages/Humanities, for which Rupees 85.39 Crore has been released by UGC in last five years.

- (iii) **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC):** The Scheme has been launched with a total cost of Rupees 418 Crore upto 31.03.2020 for improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between top ranked Indian Institutions and Foreign Institutions in the thrust area of fundamental research including Social Sciences Research.
