

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.103
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/6/2019**

YOUNG SCIENTIST RESEARCH PROGRAMME

**†*103. SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRI HEMANTTUKARAM GODSE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is conducting any programme to encourage young scientists to engage themselves with scientific activities/undertake research work;**
- (b) if so, the main characteristics of young scientist research programme together with the details of funds allotted for this purpose during each of the last three years and the current year and if not, the future plan of the Government in this regard;**
- (c) the age limit for availing of the benefits from this programme and the details of achievements made under this programme so far; and**
- (d) whether the Government is offering any special plan or scholarship under this programme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY; AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री; विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री
(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.103 ON 28/6/2019 REGARDING YOUNG SCIENTIST RESEARCH PROGRAMME

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government has instituted several schemes/programmes aimed at encouraging young scientists to engage themselves with scientific activities / undertake research work. Some of the notable programmes of the Ministry targeted at young scientists include: Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) of Department of Science and Technology (DST), National Postdoctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) and Early Career Research Award (ECRA) of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Research Fellowship Schemes of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Research Associateship, R&D project based Project Associates, Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award of DBT etc.

In addition to above dedicated schemes, participation of young scientists in main stream research support schemes of SERB is as high as 37% in case scientists below the age of 40 and 65% for scientists below 45 years, which demonstrates their vibrancy, competitiveness and contribution to Indian Science. Ease of funding, speed of delivery, attractive fellowships, access to best research infrastructure and knowledge resource pool, recognition and mentoring in some schemes are some of the characteristics of the young scientist research programmes. The schemes are designed to identify promising young researchers and provide them with training and research opportunities in areas of science, engineering and mathematics. The schemes also provide them a platform to develop as independent researchers for taking up challenging research problems for the benefit of the country. The funds allocated exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 1163.6 crore, Rs. 1182.5 crore, Rs. 1283 crore and Rs. 839.4 crore respectively.

(c) The required age limit for availing the benefits from the following popular young scientist schemes are given below:

Scheme / Programme	Age group: Upper age limit of
INSPIRE Faculty Fellow Scheme (DST)	32 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST categories
National Postdoctoral Fellowship (SERB)	35 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged/Women categories
Early Career Research Award (SERB)	37 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged/Women categories
Ramanujan Fellowship (SERB)	45 years
Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (SERB)	45 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged/Women categories
CSIR Fellowship Schemes	35 years
Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship (DBT)	45 years
Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award(DBT)	35 years of age with relaxations of 5 years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged/Women categories
National Women Bioscientist Award (DBT)	45 years

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, regular placement in academic / research institutions and industry. They also received recognitions in the form of awards, membership in science and engineering academies and have continued to contribute significantly towards India science and technology.

(d) Yes, Sir. The fellowships, awards as mentioned above offer liberal financial support in the form of fellowship ranging from Rs. 31,000/- to Rs. 1,35,000/- per month to scientists who are not in regular service, depending upon their qualification and nature of the scheme. The fellowship of research personnel (Junior / Senior Research Fellow, Research Associate) engaged in R&D Programmes of the Central Government Departments / Agencies has been enhanced 24-35% with effect from 1st January 2019.
