

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1220
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/12/2022**

SCHEMES TO INCREASE INTEREST OF CHILDREN IN SCIENCE

† 1220. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether any scheme is being implemented to increase the interest and inclination of children towards science;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any scheme is being run by the Government to encourage child scientists in the country; and
- (d) if so, the State-wise details of child scientists who have been encouraged during the last three years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

- (a) **Yes Sir.**
- (b) **Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing INSPIRE MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), Vigyan Jyoti and National Children Science Congress (NCSC) to increase the interest and inclination of children towards science. INSPIRE MANAK aims to attract young students to study science and pursue research career and to promote creative thinking and foster a culture of innovation among them. A total of 18,10,311 students have been supported under INSPIRE Awards since the start of the scheme. Vigyan Jyoti encourages meritorious girl students of Class 9-12 to pursue education and career in Science and Technology. Since the inception, more than 30000 girls have been benefitted through various interventions under**

Vigyan Jyoti. The National Children Science Congress (NCSC) aims to create the interest in the children of age group 10-17 in Science.

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) is the implementing agency for the Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) of MoC, Govt. of India for setting up of Science Cities/Science Centres/Innovation Hubs & Digital Planetarium in the Country.

Under the Ministry of Earth Sciences umbrella scheme Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT), activities are planned and implemented to increase the interest and inclination of children towards science.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) organises National Level Science Exhibition since 1971, for popularising science and inculcating scientific temper among children. NCERT organises Rashtriya Avishkar Saptah since 2018, for involving children in various experimentations and exploration in science. Both these activities are funded by Ministry of Education.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been engaged in connecting school students with scientists through its “Jigyasa” (student-scientist connect) program. The programme envisages opening up the national scientific facilities to school children, enabling CSIR scientific knowledgebase and facility to be utilized by school children to develop ‘Scientific Temper’ in the young minds.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The number of students selected under the INSPIRE Awards-MANAK Scheme implemented by the Department of Science and Technology during the last three years are as below:

S No.	States/UTs	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andaman and Nicobar	27	4	17
2	Andhra Pradesh	5213	3877	3993
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11	9	21
4	Assam	97	97	192
5	Bihar	423	4108	2956
6	Chandigarh	49	60	49
7	Chhattisgarh	3078	3391	3678

8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	37	28	18
9	Delhi	305	232	170
10	Goa	45	39	83
11	Gujarat	1012	1191	627
12	Haryana	888	651	705
13	Himachal Pradesh	1062	442	711
14	Jammu and Kashmir	264	1123	1276
15	Jharkhand	626	1180	2082
16	Karnataka	7861	6879	7825
17	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan	275	835	664
18	Kerala	249	1119	1141
19	Lakshadweep	4	0	3
20	Madhya Pradesh	2310	819	1512
21	Maharashtra	3844	3139	2925
22	Manipur	25	19	13
23	Meghalaya	17	8	6
24	Mizoram	11	12	20
25	Nagaland	9	2	3
26	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti	25	77	146
27	Odisha	1366	7395	3659
28	Puducherry	157	73	58
29	Punjab	362	310	411
30	Rajasthan	2019	8027	10019
31	Sikkim	136	11	14
32	Tamil Nadu	2302	1371	1596
33	Telangana	3472	3813	2805
34	Tripura	142	30	16
35	Uttar Pradesh	1947	1641	1722
36	Uttarakhand	2411	947	1528
37	West Bengal	62	60	47
38	Ladakh	0	2	9
	Total	42143	53021	52720

The state-wise details of girl students encouraged under Vigyan Jyoti programme of Department of Science and Technology during last three years are mentioned below:

State/UTs	Phase-I		Phase-II		Phase-III	
	No. of Districts	No. of girl students	No. of Districts	No. of girl students	No. of Districts	No. of girl students
Andaman and Nicobar	-	-	1	100	1	100

Andhra Pradesh	-	-	3	298	7	692
Arunachal Pradesh	1	50	1	95	4	276
Assam	2	100	4	399	11	935
Bihar	3	150	5	499	8	671
Chandigarh	1	50	1	100	1	99
Chhattisgarh	2	100	4	385	8	779
Dadar, Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	1	50	2	200	2	200
Delhi	1	50	1	99	2	197
Goa	1	50	1	100	1	97
Gujarat	1	50	4	400	10	797
Haryana	1	50	3	297	6	586
Himachal Pradesh	2	100	4	400	8	733
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	2	134	5	378
Jharkhand	2	100	4	399	9	644
Karnataka	3	150	5	500	9	891
Kerala	2	100	3	302	7	690
Ladakh	-	-	1	96	1	88
Madhya Pradesh	2	100	5	493	10	977
Maharashtra	3	150	5	496	11	1038
Manipur	1	50	2	200	4	271
Meghalaya	1	50	2	200	3	222
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	1	43
Nagaland	1	50	1	95	1	54
Odisha	2	100	4	400	8	778
Puducherry	-	-	1	100	4	400
Punjab	-	-	4	394	7	683
Rajasthan	4	200	6	599	10	967
Sikkim	1	50	1	100	2	200
Telangana	2	100	3	299	5	493
Tripura	-	-	1	100	3	213
Uttarakhand	3	150	5	494	7	671
Uttar Pradesh	4	200	8	797	14	1279
West Bengal	2	150	4	399	10	940
Total	50	2500	100	9869	200	18082

The children participating in National Children Science Congress (NCSC) learn the process of Science by doing innovative projects. They identify the problems occurring in their immediate community and attempt to solve

the problems by applying the methods of science. The state wise details of participation in NCSC during the last three years are as below:

Sl.	State	Number of Participants		
		2018	2019	2021
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	4	4	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	17	17	17
3	Arunachal Pradesh	10	10	10
4	Assam	26	26	26
5	Bihar	30	30	30
6	Chandigarh	4	4	4
7	Chhattisgarh	16	16	16
8	Daman and Diu	0	2	2
9	DELHI	8	8	8
10	Goa	8	8	8
11	Gujarat	26	26	33
12	Gulf	9	15	15
13	Haryana	16	16	16
14	Himachal Pradesh	16	16	16
15	J&K Jammu	16	8	16
16	J&K Kashmir	0	8	0
17	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya	32	32	32
18	Jharkhand	12	14	0
19	Karnataka	30	30	30
20	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan	42	42	42
21	Kerala	16	16	16
22	Lakshadweep	4	4	0
23	Madhya Pradesh	30	30	30
24	Maharashtra	30	30	30
25	MANIPUR	10	10	10
26	Meghalaya	8	8	7
27	MIZORAM	8	8	8
28	Nagaland	8	8	0
29	Odisha	26	26	26
30	Puducherry	6	6	6
31	Punjab	15	16	16
32	Rajasthan	30	30	30
33	Tamil Nadu	30	30	30
34	Telangana	13	13	0
35	Tripura	10	10	10
36	Uttar Pradesh	40	42	28
37	Uttarakhand	16	16	16
38	West Bengal	29	30	30
	Grand Total	651	665	618

The number of individual members in the operational 39 Innovation Hubs located in various states/UTs under the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture during the last three years is shown as under:

Year	No. of individual members
2019-20	5190
2020-21	2301
2021-22	1950

Child scientists from all the states are encouraged to participate in International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) and other competitions. Total students registered / appeared in national exam of Earth Science Olympiad were as following:

Year	Total Students registered
2019	4129
2020 (Online)	9436
2022 (Online)	2436

Students of team won a total of 25 medals including 12 Gold medals in different competition activities of IESO during 2019-22.
