

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2494
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.3.2023**

SCIENTIFIC TEMPER AMONG CHILDREN

2494. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to encourage scientific temper among children in schools;
- (b) whether the Government have specific projects to encourage scientific research and development;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the infrastructure provided in this regard; and
- (d) whether fund has been allocated through budget and if so, the details thereof along with the details of the fund spent during the last five years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR 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) The Ministry of Science and Technology has the following programmes to encourage scientific temper among children:

1. **National Children's Science Congress (NCSC)** is a programme meant for children of the age group of 10-17 years both from school and out of school. The programme encourages the children to learn science by doing innovative projects in the selected focal theme and sub-focal themes. The programme is implemented at district level from where the children participate at state level. The winners of state level participate in national level.

2. **Initiative in Research and Innovation (IRIS) in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)** is a programme which motivates the children, in the age group of 10-17 years, towards STEM education by encouraging them to take research based projects in 21 selected areas of

STEM. The children participate in National IRIS Fair held annually and winner of the Fair form Team India participate in International Science & Engineering fair (ISEF).

3. INSPIRE MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge), national programme is being implemented to attract young students to study science and pursue research career and to promote creative thinking and foster a culture of innovation among them.

The INSPIRE MANAK Scheme intends to target young students studying in class VI to X. Under INSPIRE MANAK scheme, a million ideas are being targeted from more than five lakh middle and high schools across the country, out of which one lakh ideas are being shortlisted for a financial assistance of Rs. 10000 /- for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea. After a series of District Level and State level exhibitions, the top 60 innovations are selected from National Level Exhibition for whom incubation support is provided.

4. Vigyan Jyoti programme is being implemented to encourage meritorious girl students of Class 9-12 to pursue higher education and career in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) particularly in the areas where women are underrepresented. Since the inception, more than 30000 girls have been benefitted through various interventions under Vigyan Jyoti. The major activities under the programme include counselling of students-parents, career counselling, special lectures/classes, curriculum-based STEM sessions, coding sessions, science camps, tinkering activities, visits to Knowledge Partners (KP)/Industry/Lab, interaction with role models, etc. Some special workshops on latest technologies have also been conducted for Vigyan Jyoti Scholars.

5. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been engaged in connecting school students with scientists through its “Jigyasa” (student-scientist connect) program. Since 2017. 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. The Jigyasa program is being implemented through CSIR laboratories wherein more than 4,00,000 students across the country have benefitted along with 1,500 teachers, since 2017.

(b) The Ministry does not have any specific projects to encourage scientific research and development.

(c) No infrastructure has been created for these programmes.

(d) There is no separate Budget Head allocated for these programmes.
