

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 644
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

SHORTCOMINGS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

644. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the shortcomings in the education sector;
- (b) if so, any announcement has been made to provide special funds for doing research and quality improvement in education;
- (c) the names of the States which have provided figures relating to research and quality improvement in the education sector during the last three years;
- (d) whether funds are being allocated to the States which are lagging behind in research; and
- (e) if so, the details of funds allocated for the above purpose, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(Dr. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a): As per the information received from the University Grants Commission (UGC), an expert committee constituted in 2019 to promote and improve the quality of research in Indian universities/colleges observed that the overall quality of university and college level research in India needs improvement.

(b) to (e): Education being in the Concurrent List, enhancing the quality of education and research is the responsibility of both the Central and State Governments. UGC has approved Quality Mandate on 24.05.2018. It comprises 5 objectives and 10 verticals, to improve the quality of higher education in the country. The 10 verticals are: (i) Induction programme for students; (ii) Learning outcome-based curriculum framework revision of curriculum in regular intervals; (iii) Use ICT based learning tools for effective teaching-learning process; (iv) Soft skills for students; (v) Social and Industry connect for every institution: Every institution shall adopt at least 5 villages for exchange of knowledge and for the overall social/economic betterment of the village communities; (vi) Examination Reforms - test the concept, and application; exit examinations; (vii) Tracking of the student progress after completion of course; (viii) Induction training for all new teachers, and annual refresher training for all teachers - role of the National Resource Centres (NRCs); and mandatory leadership/management training for all educational administrators (ix) Promoting quality research by faculty and creation of new knowledge; (x) Mentoring of non-accredited institutions. Detail of the grants released by the UGC to Universities & Colleges under various schemes relating to Research Projects and Fellowships / Scholarships for the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)
2019-20	1214.78
2020-21	1229.63
2021-22	1186.65

Furthermore, recognizing the need for central assistance, the Central Government has implemented various schemes for supporting State Governments as given hereunder: -

Research Parks: Complementing the renewed focus of the Government on developing indigenous R&D capabilities, boosting manufacturing and creating a successful start-up culture in the country, Research Parks are being established at various Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)/Indian Institute of Science (IISc). A full-fledged Research Park is already functioning in IIT Madras. Research Park at IIT-Kharagpur was inaugurated in Aug 2019. A Research Park at IIT Gandhinagar is funded by Department of Science & Technology (DST). Research Park at IIT Delhi was inaugurated on 30.09.2022. The amount released during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)
2019-20	43.87
2020-21	167.50
2021-22	30.00

IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India Initiative: IMPRINT-II was formulated in 2018 by merging the schemes IMPRINT-I (implemented up to Mar'22) and Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY). The projects under IMPRINT-II are funded jointly by MoE and DST in the ratio of 50:50 by creating a joint corpus. Other participating Ministries/ Industries may volunteer to fund the projects relevant to them. Details of the projects approved and cost thereof are as under:-

Phases	Project	Cost (Rs. in Crore)
IMPRINT-II(A+B)	125	104.58
IMPRINT-II-C	51	41.18
IMPRINT-II-C-II	8	17.66
TOTAL	184	163.42

Prime Minister's Research Fellows: In order to attract best talent for undertaking research in the frontier areas of science & technology, preferably those addressing the national requirements, talented students from all recognized Universities/Institutes are selected as per PMRF guidelines to enroll in the Ph.D program in IITs/IISc/Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) & selected Central Universities (CUs)/National Institute of Technology (NITs) (in NIRF top 25) and incentivized by providing attractive rates of fellowship @ Rs.70,000/- per month for the first two years, Rs.75,000/- per month for the 3rd year, and Rs.80,000/- per month in the 4th and 5th years. In addition, a research grant of Rs.2.00 lakh per year for a period of 5 years are given to each fellow to meet the cost of presenting research papers. As on date, 2560 out of a maximum of 3000 fellows have been admitted under the scheme. The amount released during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)
2019-20	28.27
2020-21	63.59
2021-22	155.10

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA): RUSA is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at funding selected State government universities and colleges, so as to improve the overall quality of existing higher education scenario in States/UTs. The State-wise details of approvals under various components including for research is available at https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/upload_document/Funds_under_RUSA.pdf

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC): It is an initiative of Ministry of Education with an allocation of Rs. 418 Crore spread to promote joint research and collaboration. The scheme became functional with effect from 28th October 2018. It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Education Institutions by supporting joint research proposals and facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best foreign institutions from 28 selected nations (USA, UK, Germany, Australia, Austria, Denmark, France, Canada, Italy, China & Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Russia, Israel, Switzerland, Sweden, Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea, Norway, Portugal, Austria, Taiwan, Belgium, Spain, Brazil, and Finland). The scheme envisages that culmination of joint research proposals would lead the direction of solving problems of national and/or international relevance. There is a set of 6 Thrust Areas and Sub-Themes (Fundamental Research, Emergent Areas of Impact, Convergence, Action-Oriented Research, Innovation-Driven, and Humanities & Social Studies) with the 6 Lead Institutions from India (IIT Kanpur, ISI Kolkata, IIT Delhi, BHU, IIT Madras and IIT Indore). The role of Thrust Areas Leads is to review and shortlist the potential joint-proposals submitted under SPARC scheme. Details of proposals approved and funds released are as follows: -

No. of proposals approved in 2018-19 in Phase-I	No. of proposals under evaluation in Phase-II	Amount released (Rs. In crore)
394	1222	110.0
