

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1282
ANSWERED ON-11/12/2023

Enrolment of Ph.D. Programmes

1282. DR. G. RANJITH REDDY:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that enrolment of Ph.D. programmes at IITs has come down;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind this downward trajectory among best Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) colleges in the country;
- (c) the number of Ph.D. applications in IISc during the last five years and the current year, year-wise;
- (d) the reasons that students are not registering for Ph.D. programmes in the above premier Institutions in spite of having record faculty strength and huge research funds; and
- (e) the efforts being made by the Government to reverse this trend?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (e): The enrolment in PhD programme is a dynamic phenomenon, which depends on multiple factors such as availability of jobs in Government/ PSU and private sector, start-up opportunities, avenues of higher studies etc. The Government has taken various steps to further increase the Ph.D. enrolment.

Under the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship scheme, attractive fellowship is offered to attract the best talent into research thereby realizing the vision of development through innovation and approximately 3000 students have been selected since 2018 to pursue their Ph. D. in premier Indian Universities/ Institutions. Under the scheme, selected scholars are provided with attractive rates of monthly fellowship @ Rs.70,000/- for the first two years, Rs.75,000/- for the 3rd year, and Rs.80,000/- in the 4th and 5th years. A research grant of Rs.2.00 lakh per year for a period of 5 years to each fellow to meet the cost of presenting research papers is also given. Further, the Government has also revised the emoluments for research personnel engaged in R&D programmes funded by the Ministry of Education from Rs. 31,000 per month to Rs. 37,000 per month for Junior Research Fellows (JRF) and Rs. 35,000 per month to Rs. 42,000 per month for Senior Research Fellows (SRF) with effect from 1st January, 2023.

These efforts are supplemented by funding from Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, etc. for nurturing and developing research in scientific areas and thereby supporting research in critical areas.

As envisaged in National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, “Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act,2023” was notified to establish the Anusandhan National Research Foundation. Anusandhan National Research Foundation, an apex body has been envisaged to provide high-level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture. It also seeks to promote scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences. Total estimated cost of NRF for five years (2023-28) is Rs. 50,000 crores.

As per Research and Development (R&D) Statistics at a Glance 2022-23, India occupies 3rd rank in terms of the number of PhDs awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E). Further, as per Elsevier Report, the total number of publications has also increased from 661,912 from (2012-2016) to 1,012,624 in (2017-2021).
