

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2527
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2023

Funds for Research Projects of IITs & IISCs

2527. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK:
SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Indian science especially in research field is passing through a quagmire situation as no funds have been released for the Research Projects from the elite institutes of the country like IITs & IISCs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has instructed the respective departments towards initiating steps for release of amount held back for last more than a year in a time bound manner; and
- (d) whether the Government is regularly releasing enough funds for carrying out the research activity without any hindrances in future for the science research projects?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): IITs and IISc receives funds under various research schemes from various central Ministries such as Ministry of Education, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, through their various departments such as Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) and Department of Bio-Technology (DBT) etc. Additionally, they also receive research grants from industry, alumni, philanthropic contributions, etc. Ministry of Education releases funds under different research schemes such as Uchcharat Avishkar Yojana (UAY), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), Scheme for promotion of Research and Academic Collaboration (SPARC), Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS), etc., for promotion of research ecosystem of country's Higher Education Institutes. This Ministry also releases funds to IITs and IISc for salary, pension, scholarships/fellowships, equipment related expenses and other recurring/non-recurring expenditure on monthly basis based on the demand estimates received from these Institutions viz-a-viz their budgetary allocation. Fund flow is a continuous process and funds are released to various institutions based on the approved cost of the concerned research project and demand raised under recurring and non-recurring heads.

The impact of the consistent efforts by the Government is attested by the latest available R&D statistics brought out by DST, as per which, the Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) in the country has been consistently increasing over the years and has more than doubled from Rs.60,196.75 crore in 2010–11 to Rs.1,27,380.96 crore in 2020–21. As

per 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 6,61,912 in (2012-2016) to 10,12,624 in (2017-2021).
