

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 939
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/11/2019**

INSTILL SCIENTIFIC APPROACH AMONG STUDENTS

†939. **SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme, to instill scientific approach among students of North Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the manner in which students are likely to be benefited with these schemes along with the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is working on launching any other scheme to instill scientific approach in students throughout the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of the various schemes thereof, scheme and State/ UT-wise?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री; विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री

डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Children's Science Congress (CSC) is a programme being implemented in North Eastern states to instill scientific approach among students. The programme benefits the students to understand the science better through the eye of common man and identifying the societal relevance of their research. The students are encouraged to learn by doing innovative theme-based project in science. The students identify a community problem and apply their scientific knowledge to find out an innovative solutions to these problems. This benefits the society as the student community are now aware of problems and are thinking of solutions to solve problems. The students also enjoy learning science by doing the innovative projects. Every year nearly 700 students participate at National event of Children's Science Congress where they demonstrate their scientific thinking and approach to problem solving.

The Department is also implementing INSPIRE Award - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) scheme for school children in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in Class 6th -10th to promote research and innovation among them. Though, the scheme is not specifically targeted towards students from all over the country, the scheme has good outreach in schools located in North Eastern States of the country and all the North Eastern States only, however, the scheme has good outreach in schools located in North Eastern States of the country and all the State of North-East are participating in this scheme. Under INSPIRE Award - MANAK scheme, in a Financial Year, ten (10.0) lakh ideas are targeted from more than five (05) lakh middle and high schools across the country, out of which one (1.0) lakh ideas are to be shortlisted for an initial award of Rs. 10,000/- for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea. The awardees then participate in three tier competition i.e. District, State and National Level. Participants of National Exhibition are also provided mentoring support at premier Educational and technical institutions of the country. In 2018-19, 344 INSPIRE Awards were sanctioned to the students from North-Eastern States.

Department of Science and Technology through its novel initiative Augmenting Writing Skills in Articulating Research (AWSAR) is encouraging PhD students working in R&D Universities and S&T Institutions across the country, to connect with society through popular science writing about their research work in simple language.

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has set up Science Centres in North Eastern States as listed at Annexure 'A' in order to popularize Science & Technology in cities, urban and rural areas of North Eastern States to develop scientific attitude and temper and to create, inculcate and sustain a general awareness among the students of NE states. Science Museums and Science Centres under NCSM are better known for their extensive round the year educational activities aimed at the young student community, teachers, young entrepreneurs, physically challenged, house wives. The basic idea is to help our youth and common man to understand science better through hands-on-activities/ experiments, create an interest for science as carrier option and foster creativity and innovation. Some of the most popular educational activities are: science demonstrations, science seminars on current S&T issues, science fairs, science drama competitions, debates, writing and drawing competitions, science hobby camps, sky observation programs and nature trails. NCSM has also launched (03) three Mobile Science Exhibition vans popularly known as 'Museobus' in North Eastern region for taking science to the doorsteps of rural population including students.

(c) & (d). Nil.

Name of Science Centre set up by National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in North Eastern State and functioning under its administrative control:-

Sl. No.	Names of the Science Centre under NCSM in North Eastern Region	State-wise location
01	Regional Science Centre, Guwahati	Assam

Names of Sub-Regional Science Centres developed by NCSM jointly with the respective State Govts and handed over to them for operation and maintenance:-

Sl. No.	Names of the Science Centres developed by NCSM and handed over to respective State Governments	State-wise location
01.	Mizoram Science Centre, Aizwal	Mizoram
02.	Nagaland Science Centre, Dimapur,	Nagaland
03.	Manipur Science Centre, Manipur	Manipur
04.	Itanagar Science Centre, Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
05.	Shillong Science Centre, Shillong,	Meghalaya
06.	Sikkim Science Centre, Gangtok	Sikkim
07.	Jorhat Science Centre, Jorhat	Assam

Names of new Science Centre projects in North Eastern region taken up by NCSM under SPOCS Scheme of Govt. of India:-

Sl. No.	Names of the Science Centre projects taken up by NCSM	State-wise location
01	Science City, Guwahati	Assam
02	Assam Science Centre, Kokrajhar	Assam
03	Tripura Science Centre, Udaipur	Tripura

NCSM has also setup Innovation Hubs for RSC, Guwahati, Sukanta Academy, Tripura, Shilong Science Centre, (Meghalaya), Nagaland Science Centre, Dimapur, (Nagaland), Sikkim Science Centre, Gangtok, (Sikkim), Mizoram Science Centre, Aizwal, (Mizoram) Arunachal Pradesh Science Centre, Itanagar, (Arunachal Pradesh).

NCSM has also set up Space & Astronomy Education Centres at Shillong (Meghalaya), Gangtok (Sikkim), Dimapur (Nagaland), Aizwal (Mizoram), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) & Imphal (Manipur) to popularise space & astronomy related education and awareness in NE States of India.
