

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No. 236  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/03/2020

PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG SCIENTISTS

\*236. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:  
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is conducting any programme to encourage young scientists to engage themselves in scientific activities/undertake research work;
- (b) if so, the main characteristics of Young Scientists Research Programme along with the details of funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the age limit for availing of the benefits and the details of achievements made so far under this programme; and
- (d) whether the Government is offering any special plan or scholarship under this programme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

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) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*236 FOR 06.03.2020 REGARDING "PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG SCIENTISTS"**

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government has instituted several schemes/programmes aimed at encouraging young scientists to engage themselves with scientific activities / undertake research work. Some of the notable programmes of the Ministry of Science and Technology targeted at young scientists include: Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) of Department of Science and Technology (DST), National Postdoctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) and Start-up Research Grant (SRG) of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Research Fellowship Schemes of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Research Associateship, R&D project based Project Associates, Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award of DBT etc.

In addition to above dedicated schemes, participation of young scientists in main stream research support schemes of SERB is as high as 37% in case of scientists below the age of 40 and 65% for scientists below age of 45 years, which demonstrates their vibrancy, competitiveness and contribution to Indian Science. Ease of funding, speed of delivery, attractive fellowships, access to best research infrastructure and knowledge resource pool, recognition and mentoring in some schemes are some of the characteristics of the young scientist research programmes. The schemes are designed to identify promising young researchers and providing them with training and research opportunities in areas of science, engineering and mathematics. The schemes also provide them a platform to develop as independent researchers for taking up challenging research problems for the benefit of the country. Funds allocated exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 1178.3 crore, Rs. 1200.6 crore, Rs. 1293.5 crore and Rs. 1205 crore, respectively.

(c) The age criteria for availing benefits of various young scientist schemes are given below:

| <u>Scheme / Programme<br/>(Department / Agency)</u>  | <u>Upper age limit</u>  |
|--|---|
| INSPIRE Faculty Fellow (DST)                         | 32 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST categories                                 |
| Swarnajayanti Fellowship (DST / SERB)                | 40 years  |
| National Postdoctoral Fellowship (SERB)              | 35 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories |
| Start-up Research Grant (SERB)                       | 42 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories |
| Ramanujan Fellowship (SERB)                          | 40 years  |
| Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (SERB) | 45 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories |
| Fellowship / Associateship (CSIR)                    | 28-40 years   |
| Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship                   | 45 years  |