

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2210  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/09/2020**

**YOUNG SCIENTIST RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

**2210. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted/planning to conduct any programme to encourage young scientists to engage themselves in scientific activities/undertake research work;
- (b) if so, the main characteristics of the Young Scientist Research Programme along with the details of funds allotted and utilized for this purpose during each of the last three years and the current year and if not, the future plan of the Government in this regard;
- (c) the age limit and other eligibility criteria for availing the benefits under this programme and the details of achievements made under this programme so far; and
- (d) whether scholarship or any other special incentives are being provided by the Government under this programme, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**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. 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, Har Gobind Khorana- Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award of DBT etc. 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 / utilized exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 1197.7 crore, Rs. 1290.3 crore, Rs. 1344.2 crore and Rs. 1127.5crore, respectively.

(c) The age limit and other eligibility criteria for availing benefits of some of the notable young scientist schemes are given below:

Scheme/ Programme (Department /Agency)	Upper age limit	Other eligibility criteria for the applicant
INSPIRE Faculty Fellow (DST)	32 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST categories. 42 years for persons with benchmark disability.	Indian citizens and people of Indian origin with PIO status having PhD degree from any recognized university in the world. Candidates shall possess a minimum of 60% (or equivalent CGPA) marks throughout their academic profile starting from Higher Secondary Examination. Those who have submitted their PhD theses and are awaiting the award of the degree are also eligible
National Postdoctoral Fellowship (SERB)	35 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories	Should be an Indian citizen. The applicant must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree or have submitted PhD/M.D/M.S thesis.
Start-up Research Grant (SERB)	42 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to	Should be an Indian citizen. Foreign Nationals (including PIO, OCI) working as regular employee in any of the public funded and recognized R&D laboratories/institutions in India are eligible to apply

	SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories	in collaboration with an Indian scientist, provided they fulfill the eligibility criteria notified by SERB. Should hold Ph.D. degree in Science or Engineering or M.D. / M.S. / M.D.S. / M.V. Sc. degree. Should hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized academic institution or national laboratories or any other recognized R&D institutions. Should apply within two years of joining the institution.
Ramanujan Fellowship (SERB)	40 years	Open to brilliant Indian scientists and engineers working abroad. The applicant should possess a higher degree or equivalent, such as Ph.D. in Science/ Engineering, Masters in Engineering or Technology/ MD in Medicine, etc. and have adequate professional experience.
Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (SERB)	28-40 years	Junior Research Fellowships are awarded to candidates holding BS-4 years program/BE/B.Tech/B.Pharma/MBBS/ Integrated BS-MS/M.Sc. or Equivalent degree/BSc (Hons) or equivalent degree holders or students enrolled in integrated MS-Ph.D program with at least 55% marks for General & OBC (50% for SC/ST candidates, Physically and Visually handicapped candidates) after qualifying the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by CSIR.
Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship (DBT)	45 years	Should possess a PhD/MD or equivalent degree with an outstanding track record. Only candidates (Indian nationals) working overseas are eligible to apply. Those who have already returned to India within one year of the closing date of this advertisement but without a job are also eligible.
Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (DBT)	35 years of age with relaxation of 5 years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories	Should be an Indian citizen with excellent academic credentials. Should have a PhD in any branch of life sciences, computational sciences (applied to biotechnology, medicine or biological sciences), veterinary sciences, pharmaceutical sciences and agricultural sciences. Master degree holders in medicine or dentistry (MD/MS/MDS or IMC designated equivalent) and engineering/technology (M.Tech or AICTE designated equivalent) are also eligible to apply.

A number of quality publications in high impact journals and patents have emanated from the young scientist's projects. The schemes have helped many young researchers in the progress of their career in S&T, regular placement in academic /research institutions and industry. They also received recognition in the form of awards, membership in science and engineering academies and have continued to contribute significantly towards India's science and technology.

(d) The fellowships, awards as mentioned above offer liberal financial support in the form of fellowship ranging from Rs. 31,000/- to Rs. 1,35,000/- per month to scientists who are not in regular service, depending upon their qualification and nature of the scheme. The fellowship of research personnel (Junior / Senior Research Fellow, Research Associate) engaged in R&D Programmes of the Central Government Departments / Agencies had been enhanced 24-35% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

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