

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF **EDUCATION**
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.09.2020

IMPRESS AND SPARC Schemes

SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION

शिक्षा मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether "IMPRESS" and "SPARC" schemes launched by the Government to promote research in Higher Education have been successful;
- (b) if so, the manner in which the Indian students are being trained under the said schemes; and
- (c) the domains under which the students are being trained under the said schemes along with details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')

(a) and (b): The Scheme "Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS)" was sanctioned by the Government of India on 13.08.2018, with a view to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making. Under the "IMPRESS" Scheme, a total of 1500 Research Projects and 200 Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences were sanctioned to be awarded in 2 years starting from the year 2018-19 upto 31.03.2021 with a total cost of ₹414.00 Crores.

In the year 2018-19, 269 Research Projects and 70 Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences amounting ₹23.61 Crores and in the year 2019-20, 470 Research Projects and 37 Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences amounting ₹35.7255 Crores were approved.

Under this Scheme, research scholars are provided financial support for undertaking Research and conducting Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences under the 11 defined thematic areas.

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating

academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations by supporting about 600 such joint collaborations with a total budget of ₹418 Crores. In the first phase of SPARC, 394 proposals have been approved totaling to ₹251.09 Crores. For the second phase, 1222 proposals have been received.

The scheme enables productive academic cooperation by supporting the following critical components: (i) Visits and long-term stay of top international faculty/ researchers in Indian institutions to pursue teaching and research (ii) Visits by Indian students for training and experimentation in premier laboratories worldwide, (iii) Joint development of niche courses, world-class books and monographs, translatable patents, demonstrable technologies or action research outcomes and products (iv) Consolidation of Bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships through conducting Workshops and (v) Publication, Dissemination and Visibility through a high profile annual international Conference in India

Based on the progress reports submitted by the principal investigators (PIs) of the ongoing SPARC projects initiated in 2018-2019, 118 Indian Students have visited abroad for attending training courses and/or performing research work. So far, under SPARC, 124 Workshops, with 10,980 participants, have been organized, around 47 monographs have been published, 183 journal publications and 134 conference publications have been reported and 4 patents have been filed. By involving in those activities, students are getting trained to prepare such important documents, and many more students are also getting benefitted by reading those documents.

(c): The “IMPRESS” Scheme **has** eleven (11) broad thematic areas **viz.** (i) State and Democracy; (ii) Urban transformation; (iii) Media, Culture and Society; (iv) Employment, Skills and Rural transformation; (v) Governance, Innovation and Public Policy; (vi) Growth, Macro-trade and Economic Policy; (vii) Agriculture and Rural Development; (viii) Health and Environment; (ix) Science and Education; (x) Social Media and Technology and (xi) Politics, Law and Economics.

The thrust area domains for research under SPARC are: (i) Fundamental Research, (ii) Emergent Areas of Impact, (iii) Convergence, (iv) Action-Oriented Research, (v) Innovation-Driven, and (vi) Humanities, and Social Science.
