

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 693  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/02/2021**

**Technology Development Centre**

**693. SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Bihar has a huge strength of students having scientific acumen/ approach;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to set up a Technology Development Centre in Bihar to facilitate such students; and
- (c) 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) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, is aware of the significant strength of students with scientific acumen in Bihar having knowledge & potential and is encouraging it appropriately through its schemes and programs.

In order to attract young talent towards pursuing scientific career, .Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing an umbrella scheme, 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)', to communicate excitement of creative pursuit of science to students. The scheme also aims to build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Research & Development (R&D) base.

Under this umbrella, the scheme INSPIRE Awards MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) attracts talented school students at an early age of 10-15 years studying in Class 6-10 to pursue science. One lakh ideas from these students are eligible for INSPIRE Award of Rs. 10000/- each. In last three years, 801 students from Bihar were given INSPIRE Awards MANAK, which reflects the innovation and creative potential of school students from Bihar.

Another component under INSPIRE, Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) aims to encourage meritorious students to study basic and natural sciences in Bachelor in Science (B.Sc) and Masters in Science (M.Sc) through attractive scholarship and mentorship

opportunities. Selections under SHE is based on performance (top 1%) in Class XII examinations of State/Central School Examination Boards and in selected national level competitive examinations like IIT-JEE, etc. During last year (2019-20), 229 students from Bihar received SHE scholarship, which reflects the merit potential of science students from Bihar.

During 27<sup>th</sup> National Children Science Congress (NCSC), 2019 organized by National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), DST at Kerala, 30 school students from Bihar participated to exhibit their creativity and innovation and particularly their ability to solve a societal problem experienced locally using the method of science.

Under State Science and Technology Programme (SSTP) of DST, Bihar Council of Science and Technology (BCST) supported, 500 projects of Under Graduate students under its Student Project Programme (SPP) in 2019-20 to encourage their efforts in science and technology.

In order to encourage students for career development in the area of Biotechnology, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), is supporting Postgraduate Teaching Program to ensure high standard of teaching and to generate critical mass of trained manpower in country. A total of 72 courses are being supported under this programme across the country and one M.Sc. course in Agriculture Biotechnology is being supported at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar). Total 84 students were supported in last 5 years at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur. Apart from this, DBT is also providing fellowships to biotechnology students for pursuing doctoral research in universities and / or research institutions in the country. Total 23 students supported in last 5 years under DBT-JRF Program in Bihar.

Under DBT Star College Scheme, envisaged for encouraging more students to take up higher education in science, 3 colleges from Bihar are being supported a) Patna Women's College b) Patna Science College c) Anugrah Narayan College, Patna

In addition to above, the Government of Bihar has taken several initiatives to nurture the knowledge and potential of science students of Bihar such as establishment of Engineering College, Polytechnic, facilitating proposal to set up Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and School of Planning and Architecture. BCST has submitted several proposals to Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Skill Vigyan Programme (SVP).

(b) & (c) Presently, the Government does not propose to set up a Technology Development Centre in Bihar as there is no such scheme.

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