

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1770
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2021
INSPIRE AWARDS MANAK SCHEME**

**1770. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRI SELVAM G.:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing INSPIRE Awards MANAK scheme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the aims and objective behind the move and the achievement made since its launch**
- (c) the number of ideas and innovations that have been received by the Department from students of all States and Union Territories of the country and the number of ideas selected for INSPIRE Award during each of the last three years and the current year;**
- (d) the quantum of financial support to each student provided under the programme;**
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to attract talented young boys and girls to study science and pursue research as a career; and**
- (f) the details of funds allocated for INSPIRE Awards and towards organization of District/State Level Exhibitions and Project Competitions to the State of Tamil Nadu?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Department of Science & Technology (DST) is implementing a national program INSPIRE Awards MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) previously known as INSPIRE Award Scheme with aim to attract young students to study science and pursue research career and to promote creative thinking and foster a culture of innovation among them. A total of 15,84,597 students have been awarded with INSPIRE Awards since the start of the scheme. The Department has so far organized eight National Level Exhibition and Project Competitions (NLEPCs) in which around 6100 students have showcased their projects, selected from the State Level Competition.

(c) The number of ideas and innovations that have been received by the Department from students of all States and Union Territories of the country and the number of ideas selected for INSPIRE Award during each of the last three years and the current year are as below;

S.No	Financial Year	Number of Ideas and Innovations received	Number of Ideas and Innovations selected
1.	2018-19	2,88,936	50,279
2.	2019-20	3,92,486	42,143
3.	2020-21	6,53,000	53,021
4.	2021-22	7,05,308	Selection under process

(d) Under the INSPIRE Awards MANAK Scheme, each selected student is awarded an amount of Rs. 10,000/- for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea and participation in the District Level Exhibition & Project Competition (DLEPC).

(e) Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing “Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)” to attract, motivate, nurture and train talented and meritorious students to study science subjects and opt for careers in Research and

Development (R&D) to build a pipeline of quality human resource, thereby widening the R&D human resource base of the country. Every year, INSPIRE scheme offers 50,000 students to experience the joys of creative pursuit of science under the INSPIRE Internship, 12,000 Scholarships to the students who are within top 1% of Class 12th Board examinations under the Scholarships for Higher Education (SHE) to pursue B.Sc. and M.Sc. courses in Basic and Natural Sciences, 1000 INSPIRE Fellowships for pursuing Ph.D. degree and 100 INSPIRE Faculty Fellowships to establish themselves as independent post-doctoral researchers.

Government of India, through the Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Science & Technology, Department of Space, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Earth Sciences, provides organisational and financial support to the National Olympiad programmes in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy, Earth Sciences, and Junior Science. The programme comprises of multi-level competitions for secondary and higher secondary level students, culminating in the participation of Indian teams in International Olympiads.

Department of Biotechnology has a major emphasis on human resource development and an Integrated Human Resource Development Programme in Biotechnology comprising of Star College Programme (Undergraduate level), Post Graduate Teaching Programme, Industrial Training of students, Skill Development Programme, Fellowship for Doctoral (DBT-JRF) and Postdoctoral (DBT-RA, M.K. Bhan, Ramalingaswami, etc) research training in frontier areas of life sciences and biotechnology, short term training courses for upgradation of skills of midcareer scientists and faculty engaged in Life Science and Biotechnology Teaching.

The National Children's Science Congress implemented by DST aims at spreading the concept of the method of science among the children with their project activities adopting the process of learning by doing. The mandate of participation is that the children will carry out a project on a particular topic in relation to a Focal theme and several sub-themes. The practice of a project based activity encourages the children to explore, think, wonder and experiment with science.

The Initiative in Research and Innovation in STEM (IRIS) National Fair promotes and nurtures science and scientific research among young Indian innovators. It recognizes and rewards the outstanding student projects. It provides a platform for winning students to represent India at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) through its National S&T Human Resource Development Scheme has been providing doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships to young budding researchers through its various fellowship programs such as JRF-NET, SPMF, SRF-Direct, Research Associateships and CSIR-NPDF.

To promote scientific temper amongst the school students, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had launched the program named "JIGYASA" in 2017 in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).

In order to support scientific temperament and to generate innovative spirit among school children, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has established CSIR Innovation Award for School Children (CIASC). It is an annual national competition to harness the creative and innovative spirit of school children.

(f) An amount of Rs. 84,82,450.00 has been sanctioned towards organization of District/ State Level Exhibitions and Project Competitions to the State of Tamil Nadu during the year 2019-20.
