

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2859
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2021**

YOUNG SCIENTISTS

2859. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking adequate measures to promote young scientists to undertake research work;**
- (b) if so, the salient features of the Young Scientist Research Programme and the details of the amount allocated during each of the last three years and the current year;**
- (c) the eligibility regarding age for getting benefits under the programme along with the details of the achievements made under the programme so far; and**
- (d) whether any special scheme or scholarship is being provided by the Government under the programme and if so, the details thereof?**

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) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government has taken several measures to promote young scientists to 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) Fellowship and INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship 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. Ease of funding, speed of delivery, attractive fellowships, access to best research infrastructure and knowledge resource pool, recognition and mentoring are some of the salient features of the young scientist research programmes. The schemes are designed to identify promising young researchers and providing them with training and research opportunities in frontier areas of science and technology. 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 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 1001.9 crore, Rs. 1113.1 crore, Rs. 1056.6 crore and Rs. 724.7 crore, respectively.

(c) The eligibility regarding age for getting benefits of some of the notable young scientist schemes are given below.

Scheme / Programme (Department / Agency)	Eligibility regarding age for the applicant
INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship (DST)	Upper age limit of 32 years for General / OBC applicants and 37 years for applicants belonging to SC/ST and women candidates. For persons with benchmark disabilities (Divyangjan with not less than 40 percent of a specified disability), the upper age limit will be 42 years.
Young Scientists and Technologists (DST)	Upper age limit of 35 years with relaxation of five years to SC/ST/OBC/EWS/women and differentially abled (Divyangjan) applicants.
National Postdoctoral Fellowship (SERB)	Upper age limit of 35 years with relaxation of five years to applicants

	belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories.
Start-up Research Grant (SERB)	Upper age limit of 42 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories.
Ramanujan Fellowship (SERB)	Upper age limit of 40 years.
Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (SERB)	Upper age limit of 45 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories.
Fellowship / Associateship (CSIR)	Age group between 28-40 years.
Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship (DBT)	Upper age limit of 45 years.
M.K Bhan – Young Researchers Fellowship (DBT)	Upper age limit of 35 years.

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 recognitions in the form of awards, membership in science and engineering academies and have continued to contribute significantly towards India 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.
