

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2129  
ANSWERED ON – 05/08/2024**

**Funds for Scholarship and Research and Development**

**2129 Shri Charanjit Singh Channi:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any specific plan to increase funds for research and development, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any data regarding the scholarships given to minorities for pursuing Ph.Ds. in last ten years, and if so, the details thereof, gender-wise; and
- (c) whether the Government has any data about the declining numbers of scholarships to minorities and if so, the details thereof, religion-wise, since the discontinuation of Maulana Azad National Fellowship to minorities?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a): Recognising research as a core requisite for quality education, National Education Policy (NEP 2020) exhorts HEIs to focus on research and innovation by setting up start-up incubation centres; technology development centres; centres in frontier areas of research; greater industry-academic linkages; and interdisciplinary research including humanities and social sciences research. Government has also taken numerous efforts to enhance the Research & Development (R&D) expenditure and create adequate opportunities for researchers.

As per ‘Research and Development statistics at a glance 2022-23’ published by Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, the Gross Expenditure on Research & Development (GERD) in the country has been consistently increasing over the years and has more than doubled from Rs. 60,196.75 Crore in 2010–11 to Rs. 127,380.96 Crore in 2020–21.

Further, “Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023” was notified to establish the Anusandhan National Research Foundation. Anusandhan National Research Foundation, an apex body has been envisaged to provide high-level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture. It also seeks to promote scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences. Total estimated cost of Anusandhan National Research Foundation for five years is Rs. 50,000 crores.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Minority Affairs, under Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) has disbursed a total of Rs. 887 Cr in the last 10 years (from 2014-15 to 2023-24) to various beneficiaries, which includes 11,114 male and 13,128 female candidates.

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