

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *136

TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC TEMPER

***136. DR. DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has launched any media campaigns aimed at promoting scientific temper and discouraging superstition in society;
- b) if so, the details of these campaigns including their reach, duration and topics covered; and
- c) whether there are plans to work with scientists, educators and public figures to create more awareness campaigns and if so, the expected outcome thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, MINISTER OF RAILWAYS,
AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

[SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW]

(a) to (c):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA
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(a) to (c): The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is popularizing science, technology and innovation (STI) among school students to inculcate scientific temper and scientific literacy through its flagship programmes viz. National Children Science Congress (NCSC), Initiative for Research and Innovation in STEM (IRIS), and Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)-Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (MANAK) among school students in the age group of 10-17 years.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) is conducting JIGYASA for promoting scientific temper amongst the school students in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) that connect students with scientists. The initiative extends classroom learning to research lab-based learning to school students. DST also supports college students pursuing Bachelors and Masters programme in Academic Institutions/Universities through INSPIRE-Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE). In order to enhance the participation of girls in different streams of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics), DST initiated Vigyan Jyoti in 2019-20, to facilitate a conducive and enabling environment for girls to pursue higher education.

DST also organizes National Science Day (NSD) and National Mathematics Day (NMD) every year on 28th February and 22nd December respectively, across the States and UTs through State S&T Councils for promotion of science and technology among school and college students in the country. The initiatives include interactive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs, science fairs, robotics hackathons, Open Houses etc. DST further supports projects in various districts of the country to demystify miracles and beliefs through scientific principles.

Various STEM demonstration and popularization programmes are organized at district level, state-level and national-level involving more than 50 lakh students. Lectures of eminent scientists, educators and public figures are organized to popularize STEM and promote scientific temper on NSD and NMD.

The Publications Division under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting works with scientists and educators to publish books, journals and articles promoting scientific temper in society.
