

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3357  
ANSWERED ON-16/12/2024**

**Funds for Research in basic Science in HEIs**

**3357. Dr. Indra Hang Subba:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any specific schemes to facilitate research in basic science in higher education institutes, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the amount of research grants made available for tribal students during the last five years; and
- (c) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students studying in higher education institutions established in Sikkim by availing research fellowship during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Recognising research as a core requisite for quality education, National Education Policy (NEP 2020) exhorts Higher Education Institutes (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 taken several steps for promoting quality of research in various fields including basic sciences. Some of the key programmes for promotion of research ecosystem in the country includes- Prime Minister's Research Fellowships (PMRF), Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT), Uchchar Avishkar Yojana (UAY), Scheme for promotion of Research and Academic Collaboration (SPARC), Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS) etc. by Ministry of Education; INSPIRE Fellowship and INSPIRE Fellowship components of "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) by Department of Science and Technology; Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio- RIDE) by Department of Biotechnology etc.

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.

For imparting education and research in the areas of basic sciences, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been envisaged and established as premier institutes across the country. As on date, 7 IISERs are functioning across the country. Further, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru is a premier Institute, which imparts world-class higher education in science and engineering.

In the state of Sikkim, National Institute of Technology (NIT) and a Central University i.e. Sikkim University is established by the Government of India. The amount of fellowships and research grants are disbursed to all the eligible students, including that of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as per the norms of the respective schemes.

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