

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION No. * 459
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025**

ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

*** 459. SHRI B K PARTHASARATHI:**

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of funds approved for Anusandhan National Research Foundation and the amount of funds utilized;**
- (b) whether educational universities are being provided research grants under Anusandhan National Research Foundation;**
- (c) if so, the details of the educational universities that are being provided funds for research, State-wise;**
- (d) whether the Government has any plans for setting up regional centres of Anusandhan National Research Foundation in collaboration with educational institutions;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

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

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 459 FOR 02.04.2025 REGARDING ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

(a) The government has established the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) through ANRF Act of 2023, which was notified in February 2024. The ANRF aims to receive funds in the form of ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, Science and Engineering Research Fund and Special Purpose Funds. A budgetary provision of Rs. 14,000 crores have been made from the Central Government and remaining amount will be sourced through donations from any other source, including from public sector enterprises, the private sector, philanthropist organizations, foundations or recoveries made of the amounts granted to ANRF, any income from investment of the amounts received by ANRF and all amounts with the Fund for Science and Engineering Research under the repealed Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008. For the Financial Year 2024-25, ANRF has been allocated a Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs. 966 crores of which Rs. 721 crores has already been utilized.

(b) to (c): Yes Sir. Educational universities can obtain research grant through submitting research proposals in competitive mode under the different calls advertised from ANRF as per respective guidelines. So far, five calls have been announced: Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG), EV-Mission, Inclusive Research Grant (IRG), Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) and JC Bose Grant. Among these, the PAIR program aims to strengthen the research capabilities of higher education institutions, where research is still in the early stages but holds significant potential. This program pairs emerging institutions with established, top-tier research institutions in a 'Hub & Spoke' framework, providing mentorship and support. The objectives of the PAIR programme include: support internationally competitive research with substantial impact and outcome; foster successful and productive collaborative networks between diverse institutions; and propel the advancement of institutions by (i) upscaling and building advanced research infrastructure and capabilities, (ii) enhancing the quality of research and (iii) facilitating infusion of best practices and research culture.

The PAIR program has earmarked a budget of Rs. 1,500 crores over five years, with each selected PAIR network eligible for funding up to Rs. 100 crore. Of this, 30% of the funds will go to the Hub institution, while 70% will be allocated to the Spoke institutions. It is envisaged that the hubs in tandem with select spokes are expected

to come up with competitive, impactful research proposals with potentially significant outcomes in the specified indicative themes.

In its first phase, the program is targeting universities that have demonstrated potential through national ranking and those that show promise for scaling up their research capabilities. The evaluation process for the proposals received under different ANRF calls is currently underway.

(d) to (f): Sir, as on date, there is no plan of setting up regional centres of Anusandhan National Research Foundation in collaboration with education institutions, however, under a program, Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) which is designed to work in 'Hub & Spoke' framework, hubs will be set up across the country.
