

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2538
ANSWERED ON-17/03/2025**

PM Research Fellowship Scheme

**2538. Shri Eatata Rajender:
Shri Raja Ram Singh:**

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

- (a) whether the recent Union budget proposal guarantees 10,000 fellowships exclusively for technological research in IITs and IISc under the PM Research Fellowship Scheme during the next five years, State-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the progress made in this regard and the funds allocated for this purpose;
- (d) whether the social sciences and humanities research in universities like DU, JNU and other Central Universities will be included under the above scheme, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government intends to introduce a similar fellowship scheme exclusively for social science research in Central Universities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) whether any Committee has been constituted by the Government to assess the funding gaps for social science research across Central Universities in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): In pursuance to the Budget Announcement 2018-19, the Government had approved Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme (PMRF) with total financial outlay of Rs. 1650.00 Cr. The scheme aimed to attract the best and brightest minds to pursue high – quality research in India's premier academic institutions with enhanced financial support. Under first phase of PMRF, 3688 scholars are admitted. The first phase of PMRF has led to better outcomes of research and thus, 10,000 fellowships have been announced under PMRF in Budget 2025-26 for technological research with enhanced financial support.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023 enables ANRF to serve as an apex body 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 and scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences.
