GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5118
ANSWERED ON 02/04/2025

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS FOR INDIAN RESEARCHERS

5118. SHRI P C MOHAN:
SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to support international collaborations for Indian researchers, students and professionals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures implemented by the Government to support researchers by creating international opportunities and ensuring job security within the country with the aim of preventing brain drain?

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

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

(a) to (b): Ministry of Science and Technology is facilitating international cooperation in all major areas of Science, Technology and Innovation with 40 countries through instruments such as Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Letter of Intent (LoI), Programme of Cooperation (PoC) or other Agreements to support international collaborations for Indian researchers, students, and professionals. Every year, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launch about 16 joint calls for Research and Development (R&D) proposals to enhance international bilateral collaboration as well as multilateral collaboration. Binational bodies such as Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) and Indo-US Science and Technology

Forum (IUSSTF) offer various kinds of collaborative opportunities for the research community. Collaborative partnership programme such as DBT- International Human Frontier Science Programme Organization (HFSPO) and Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP) with Wellcome Trust (UK) are fellowship programmes aimed to support high-quality biological research. India is also participating in the state-of-the-art research facilities like Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) in Germany, Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) in USA, Square Kilometer Array (SKA) in Australia and South Africa wherein India works closely with many leading countries across the globe. India is also a part of European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN, Geneva); ELLETRA Synchrotron (Italy); Sp-Ring-8 (Japan); KEK Accelerator (Japan); Fermi-Lab (US); Synchrotron light source (Brazil and Singapore); Synchrotron Radiation Sources Beam-line (Russia) etc. These collaborations helped in facilitating joint R&D projects, seminars, fellowships, training programmes, increased research capacity building and infrastructure development, exchange and exposure visits, access to advanced facilities, technology transfer, joint publications etc.

(c) Ministry of Science and Technology has formulated several schemes to create international opportunities and ensuring job security within the country with the aim of preventing brain drain. DST through the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme provides attractive avenues and opportunities for international collaboration. Some academic and research institutions offer sabbatical to faculty / scientists to take up research positions in international universities and laboratories while retaining their regular job in the country. Partnership in global mega research infrastructure facilities enables access to our researchers to advanced facilities & participation in mega-science/ consortia projects. These international opportunities and availability of sophisticated research infrastructure facilities in our research and academic sector ensure retaining of quality researchers in the country and help preventing brain drain.

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