

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1665
(ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025)**

Research Fellowships for Rural and Underprivileged

1665. SHRI KUNDURU RAGHUVeer:

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

- (a) the details of number of rural students and researchers benefitted from Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) fellowship schemes during the last five years;**
- (b) whether there is any reservation or quota for students from backward districts such as those in Telangana, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to popularize research fellowships among rural and underprivileged students?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)

The number of research students supported by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) under its Capacity Building and Human Resource Development Scheme during the last five years and their distribution on Rural/ Urban classification is as under:

Year	Number of Research scholars	Research students having rural background	Research students having Urban/Semi-Urban background
2020-21	9765	4590	5175
2021-22	10885	5116	5769
2022-23	9185	4317	4868
2023-24	7289	3426	3863
2024-25	7796	3664	4132

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (erstwhile SERB)

Total number of researchers (including those from rural background) across the country supported by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (erstwhile SERB) under different programs, namely JC Bose National Fellowship, National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF), Ramanujan Fellowship, SERB-POWER Fellowship during the last five years is as under:

Year	Total number of researchers
2020-21	277
2021-22	335
2022-23	305
2023-24	202
2024-25	225

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

Total number of beneficiaries (including those from rural background) across the country supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under different programs, namely Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) and Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) during the last five years is as under:

Year	Total number of beneficiaries
2020-21	34067
2021-22	41911
2022-23	53152
2023-24	63289
2024-25	68464

- (b) CSIR provides reservation in its CSIR-UGC JRF-NET Examination to candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Divyangjan (PWD) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS). Further, ANRF (erstwhile SERB) has a special program as IRG (erstwhile EMEQ) to support research and development activity for SC/ST communities of rural and different sections of society, which includes the appointment of JRF/SRFs where fellowship is being paid.**

- (c) To popularise CSIR research fellowships among rural and underprivileged students, CSIR provides age relaxation to candidates belonging to OBC-NCL /SC/ST/PwD/Third gender/Women categories. Also, students belonging to OBC-NCL /SC/ST/PwD/Third gender/EWS are also given advantage in application fee, which is less compared to the candidates belonging to the General/Unreserved category. Further, the candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) /Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST)/ Persons with Disability (PwD)/ Third gender category are given relaxation in marks to be eligible for appearing in NET Exam i.e. 50% marks (without rounding off) in Master's degree or equivalent examination are eligible for this Test compared to 55% for General/Unreserved category students. Further, ANRF (erstwhile SERB) has NPDF scheme to identify motivated young researchers and provide them support for doing research in frontier areas of science and engineering all across the country including rural and different sections of the society.**
