

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1998
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/03/2011

INSPIRE SCHEME

1998. SARDAR SHUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has initiated INSPIRE Scholarship Scheme to promote scientific attitude among children; and
- (b) if so, the number of students of Punjab rewarded under the scheme, so far, and the amount distributed among them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

(ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Science and Technology under this Ministry has initiated two inter-related schemes namely 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)' and the 'Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)' which aim to promote scientific attitude among children, attract students to study science and pursue careers in research. The 'Scholarship for Higher Education' provides scholarship for pursuing science at under-graduate level based on the performance (top 1%) at the Class XII Board examinations.

(b) During the last three years of implementation of the scheme: SHE, 45 INSPIRE Scholarships have been awarded to the students of the state of Punjab based on their performance at the Board examination and so far about Rs 52 lakh has also been disbursed to these students. In addition, under the INSPIRE Scheme, INSPIRE Awards to 10599 students @ Rs 5000/- per student and 39 INSPIRE Fellowships @ Rs 4 lakh per student for pursuing doctoral research in Punjab have also been given.
